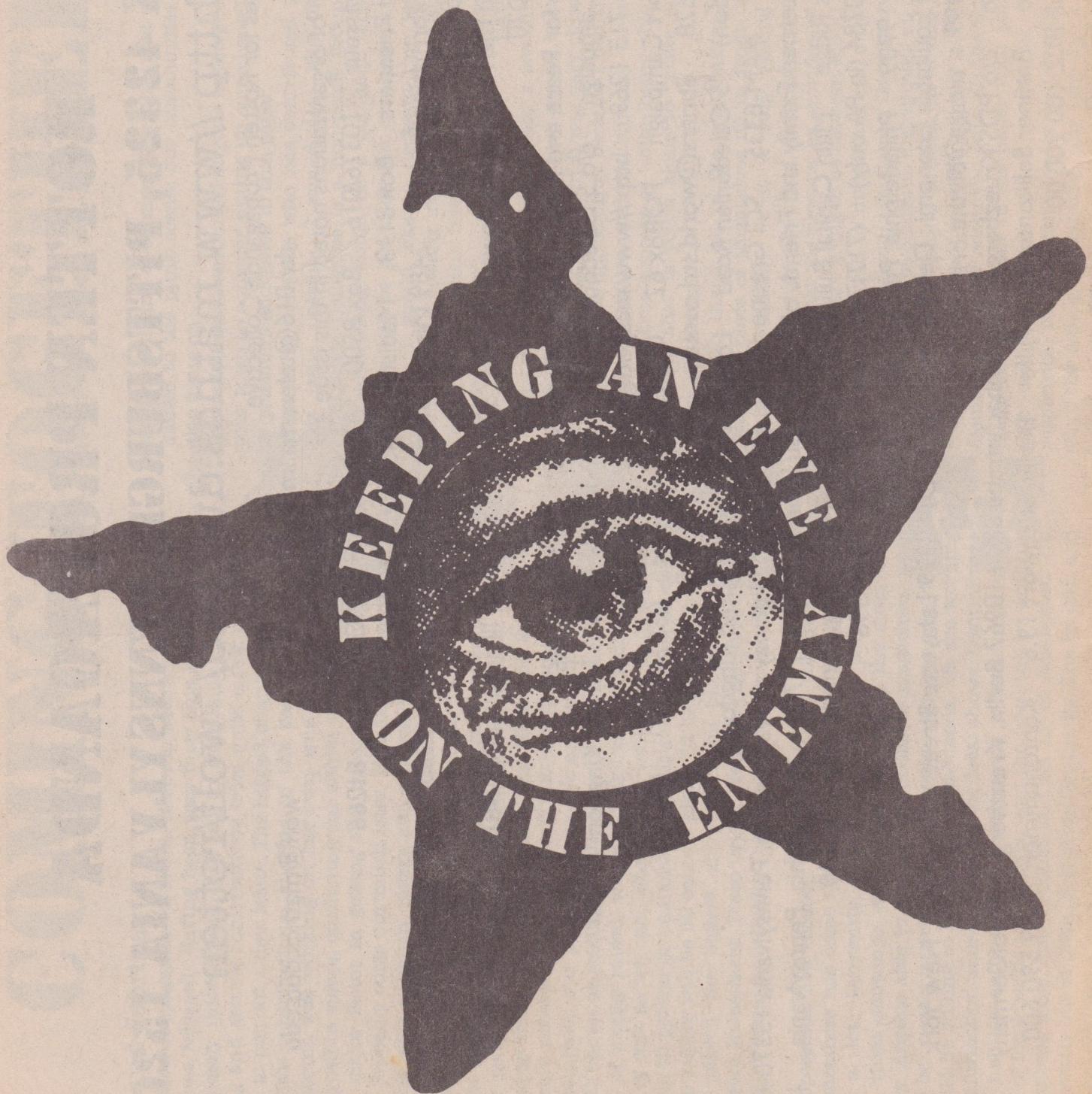


ROTTEN PROPAGANDA



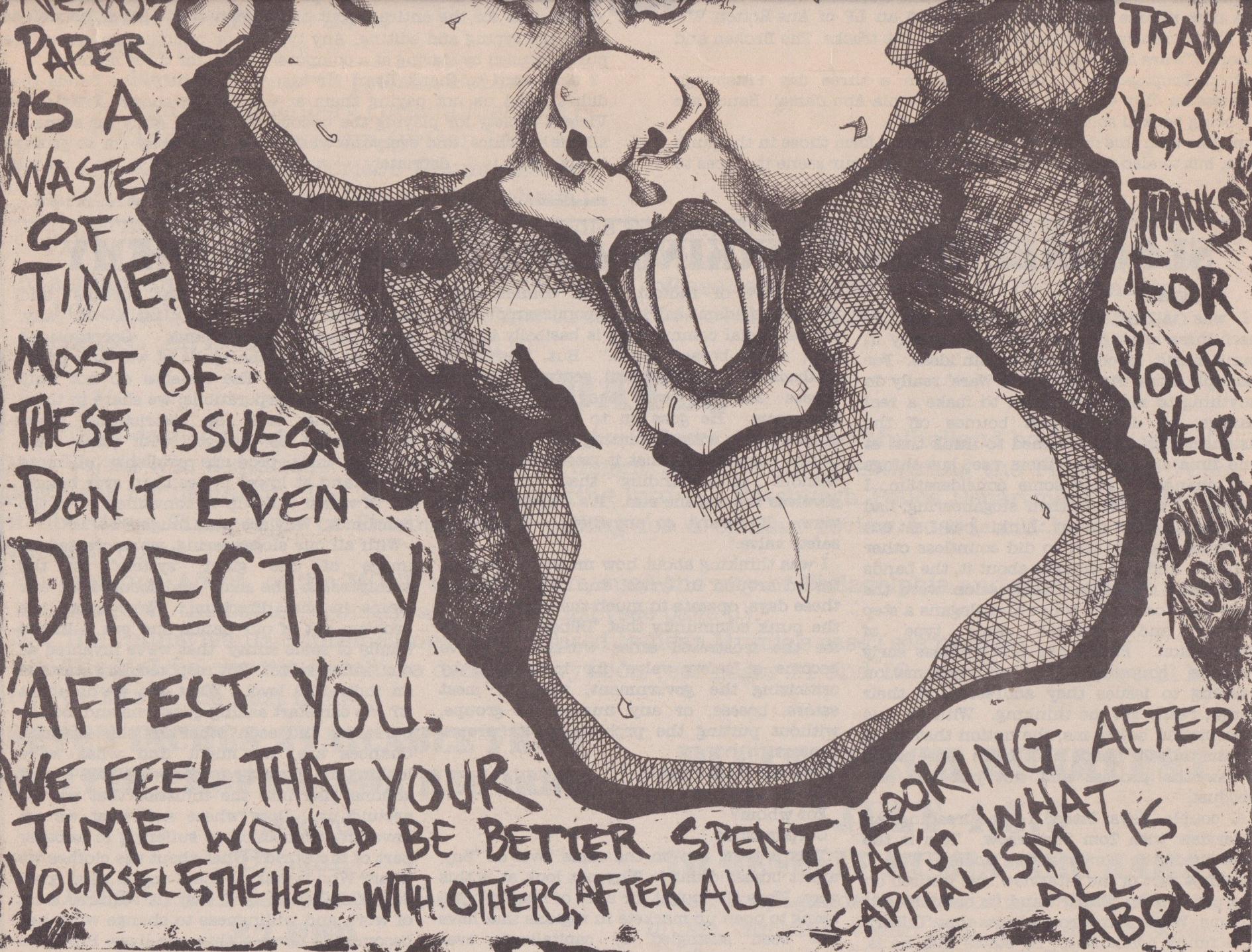
ROTTEN PROPAGANDA



WE LIKE
TO
EXPRESS
OUR
CONCERN
THAT
READING
THIS
NEWS
PAPER
IS A
WASTE
OF
TIME.
MOST OF
THESE ISSUES
DON'T EVEN
DIRECTLY

The image is a vertical black and white graphic. On the left, a woman's face is shown in profile, facing right. She has dark, wavy hair and a neutral expression. To the right of her face, there is a column of hand-drawn, jagged text. The text reads:

YOU SHOULD
REMAIN
IGNORANT
JUST
LIKE
WE
POR-
TRAY
YOU.
THANKS
FOR
YOUR
HELP.
DUMB
ASS



ISSUE 2, APRIL 1997

\$1.00

COMING TOGETHER

by Dave and Sabrina

Finally Rotten Propaganda #2 is out. It's been over a year since the first issue was released. Having been very busy this last year, plus being completely unorganized, has led to ridiculous delays. After reorganizing and getting contributions from quite a few people, we had enough to put out a new issue. The biggest change and help has been Sabrina's contributions; sharing in the responsibilities and burdens. Sabrina was working on her own 'zine "The Truth Hurts" when we agreed to merge, combining our efforts into this paper. She has been a major factor in getting this paper out. Without her it would have probably come out much later, if at all. It's nice to work with someone with so much energy and motivation to help me get more motivated myself. We are always looking for more people interested in writing articles or doing artwork for future issues. We are hoping to release a new issue every three or four months. It all depends on peoples' interest and contributions. Another big help with this paper were two benefit shows that Kalie and Sabrina set up. These were necessary since we will not be accepting or relying on ads to help with our printing costs. We are hoping to continue doing benefit shows or getting donations to help, and depending on the amount of money raised, we would like to distribute as many papers free of cost as we can, after which we'll have to charge one dollar a paper in person or mail order. For distros wanting 25 copies or more, the papers will be 50 cents a piece. I'd like to thank all the bands who played the benefit shows for the paper: Doomsday Parade, Human Investment, Disco Crisis, Pressgang, Moloch, Utterly Useless, Boiling Man, and Public Distrust and Missy for doing the door.

Rotten propaganda has recently expanded into a collective. With many new members has come the energy, ideas and possibilities to accomplish a lot. Currently, we are resuming political educational video showings, as well as organizing the start of a small library. Anyone able to donate any books or magazines, your help would be greatly appreciated. We could also use any videos anyone would be willing to donate or maybe trade. We are working on getting information tables organized for local shows, beginning to screenprint t-shirts and patches, working on a Pittsburgh video compilation of local bands and groups, and the label will be working on a new release from Anti-Product and an LP of Aus-Rotten 7"s that are currently out of print, and some live tracks. The Broken and Discord 7"s are also still available for \$3ppd.

Rotten Propaganda is also putting on a three day Pittsburgh Punkfest on July 4,5, and 6 to benefit Mumia-Abu Jamal. Bands are still being booked so we'll keep you updated.

create some kind of change. We realize that our energy should not be limited to the punk scene; our communities are an area we should also focus on.

I would like to encourage anyone in the position to set up shows in your town to consider setting up some benefits for any of the groups or prisoners addressed in this paper.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this paper and made this issue possible. I would also like to mention that Rotten Propaganda Collective is a non-profit group and any donations or free advertising would be a big help. Any money made by this collective will be put back into the newspaper or any of our other projects. I would like to dedicate this issue to all of the new members, and I really look forward to a future of working together. Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm, it has come when I needed it the most.

Solidarity,

DAVE

Yeah - what he said. Just to add a few things (like my big mouth always does)...When Dave asked me to help out with this paper, I had to give up my 'zine, which was very close to my heart. But I saw this as a unique opportunity because I had the option to merge ideas and responsibilities, and combine my talents with someone else's. This is the true concept of unity; being able and willing to sacrifice something that is yours alone to create and share in something bigger and better.

I want to thank all of the contributing writers and artists for putting a piece of themselves up in front of such a huge audience (you the readers). It is a very special thing to be able to communicate your thoughts, feelings and ideas with other people and I'm glad that the newspaper provides us with the opportunity to do that. There are going to be between 3,000 and 4,000 copies of this issue, and they will be distributed not only throughout the country but also in Ireland, England, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Canada. We hope to continue distributing all over the world.

It has been my goal to present all of this information to you in a reader friendly manner, with visually pleasing affects, so as not to disinterest you, or scare you with all the text. I have also aimed to maintain the content of the paper with political/social information that can be valuable to all people in our community. I was responsible for the entire layout and design of the paper, as well as all of the typing and editing. Any type-o's or punctuation errors are purely caused by staring at a computer screen for three months.

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SABRINA

Please write to us with any questions, comments or suggestions. POBox 42525 Pgh, PA 15208

SLOGANEERING: THINKING ABOUT THE REAL ENEMY

by Ryan

I was talking with a friend about the usefulness of slogans in music, primarily in punk music, on conveying certain ideas. For example, does "Fight War, Not Wars" really do anything to motivate people to make a real change, or does it just bounce off the listener? My friend seemed to think that at one time slogans had their use, but things had changed - after some consideration, I agreed. Crass, for all their sloganeering, had a dramatic effect on my thinking as I set out to define myself (and so did countless other bands). And as I thought about it, the bands that made the biggest impression were the ones that took their songs and slogans a step

some sort of radical social commentary." What does Adams say in his comic strip? "His radical social commentary is basically to say, 'Boy, aren't bosses dumb.' But, there's no analysis, even in a satirical, goofy way, of why bosses act the way they do," believes Tomorrow. He goes on to say, "Criticizing stupid bosses without putting them in context is like complaining that it gets dark at night without understanding that the earth revolves around the sun. It's a really limited view. It doesn't go anywhere. It's just a safety valve."

I was thinking about how much the slogans tossed around in lyrics, and other writings these days, operate in much the same way for

not to mention the tax breaks and incentives, along with little, if any, environmental restrictions. Corporations are free to reap the spoils of war and profit reigns supreme. The benefits do not only belong to the corporations; we share in them too. The lack of restrictions allow corporations to operate with little cost, making their products available in more places and at lower prices than ever before. All of which adds up to convenience for the consumer. Why are wars fought?

With all our sloganeering, we've created an image of one giant "system" or the omnipresent "the man" and focused all our blame in that direction. We've taken the

compilation of local bands and groups, and the label will be working on a new release from Anti-Product and an LP of Aus-Rotten 7"s that are currently out of print, and some live tracks. The Broken and Discord 7"s are also still available for \$3ppd.

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I was talking with a friend about the usefulness of slogans in music, primarily in punk music, on conveying certain ideas. For example, does "Fight War, Not Wars" really do anything to motivate people to make a real change, or does it just bounce off the listener? My friend seemed to think that at one time slogans had their use, but things had changed - after some consideration, I agreed. Crass, for all their sloganeering, had a dramatic effect on my thinking as I set out to define myself (and so did countless other bands). And as I thought about it, the bands that made the biggest impression were the ones that took their songs and slogans a step further and provided some type of explanation. Bands like MDC, whose early releases contained lots of information relating to issues they addressed in their songs, really got me thinking. With all this information before me, the notion that "Meat means murder" made a lot more sense when I saw the process and not just the end product.

A couple days later, I was reading an interview with Tom Tomorrow. Tom is the creator of the comic strip "Modern World". The first part of the interview was focused on the comic strip "Dilbert" and its creator Scott Adams. While Tomorrow admits that "Dilbert" is a funny comic strip, he states that he is, "...really offended by this notion being promulgated that Scott Adams is offering

some sort of radical social commentary." What does Adams say in his comic strip? "His radical social commentary is basically to say, 'Boy, aren't bosses dumb.' But, there's no analysis, even in a satirical, goofy way, of why bosses act the way they do," believes Tomorrow. He goes on to say, "Criticizing stupid bosses without putting them in context is like complaining that it gets dark at night without understanding that the earth revolves around the sun. It's a really limited view. It doesn't go anywhere. It's just a safety valve."

I was thinking about how much the slogans tossed around in lyrics, and other writings these days, operate in much the same way for the punk community that "Dilbert" functions for the frustrated office worker. They've become a "safety valve" for individuals by criticizing the government, military, meat eaters, bosses, or any number of groups, without putting the problem in its proper context.

Why are wars fought?

To make money.

For whom?

Corporations.

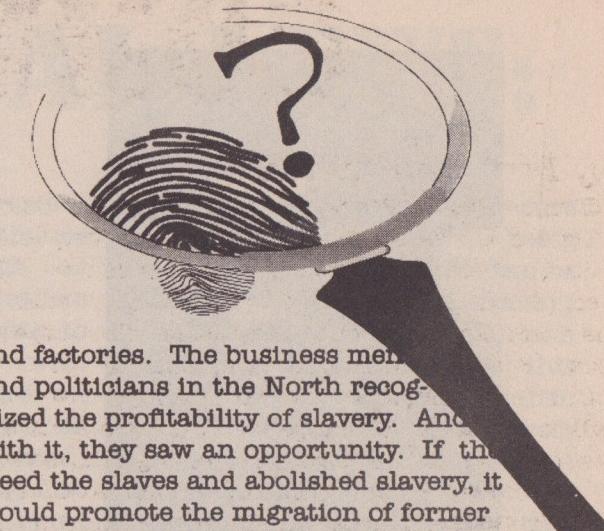
This is true, but on the same level as "Boy, aren't bosses dumb." Why not look at it this way...Wars are fought for a lot of reasons, one being to open up markets in regions that have not been strangled by capitalism's ever reaching grasp. These new markets have an abundance of cheap labor and resources that are made readily available, usually by force;

not to mention the tax breaks and incentives, along with little, if any, environmental restrictions. Corporations are free to reap the spoils of war and profit reigns supreme. The benefits do not only belong to the corporations; we share in them too. The lack of restrictions allow corporations to operate with little cost, making their products available in more places and at lower prices than ever before. All of which adds up to convenience for the consumer. Why are wars fought?

With all our sloganeering, we've created an image of one giant "system" or the omnipresent "the man" and focused all our blame in that direction. We've taken the problem out of our hands and put it in the hands of some entity that we've invented as our "safety valve". But responsibility starts at an individual level. What can we do about it? We can start asking questions and look to ourselves and each other for the answers. Chances are, we might find what we're looking for. Let's try to see what part of our actions play into the injustice that we see around us. Does where and what we eat have any connection to suffering in another part of the world? What about the clothes we wear? Who is making them and at what cost? Self-examination isn't easy. It requires a lot of work and willingness to change what has become the norm within our lives. But if we believe in the message of our songs and writings, it will make our effort worth while.

What is truth

by Sabrina



Are you telling the truth? Would you pinky-swear it to your best friend? Testify on the witness stand? Report it to the media? Would you record it in the books as history?

Maybe that sounds a little extreme; but THAT is the TRUTH. You see, the truth is not really fact. If it is, then we're all liars and have broken every promise we ever made.

"Why?" you ask. Well, because point of view is everything. It's why no one really knows what happened to President Kennedy - because everyone that witnessed his assassination saw and experienced something different. Maybe only slight variations in story, but different truths, all the same. One witness says the truth is that the bullet came from the right. The other swears it came from the left. Which one is lying? Neither, because they were standing on opposite sides of where the bullet came from. It's just plain logic.

And when we simplify it this way, we see the pertinent need to examine several "sides" of the story. Questioning is the only way for one to arrive at what they believe to be the honest truth.

And yet, when we apply this sort of logic to larger concepts, the deep rooted laziness of our society becomes glaringly apparent.

In school, for example, we are taught history lessons. Stories which most take as truth. Things like "Columbus discovered America" and "the Civil War was about whether slavery was right or wrong". And without questioning, we accept these stories in our text books as truth.

Now, while we must condemn our educational system for not promoting a more liberal look at history, we must also recognize that it is our responsibility as students to question and examine all knowledge. After all, in a country that celebrates Columbus day, who would have ever imagined that in fact, some unknown Native American tribe was here long before Columbus began to rape and pillage in this land? And when we examine the situation, we find that perhaps a more accurate description of Columbus was the first EUROPEAN to set foot on American soil. Or was he? I seem to recall stories of Nordic people who were here prior to Columbus' "discovery".

You knew all that? Great. That is one of the "truths" that has (thankfully) been caught and debated in America, and amazingly even in some classrooms for several decades.

But what about the Civil War? It was all about black and white, wasn't it? The North wanted slavery abolished because it was wrong, right? Unfortunately, this is one of those "truths" that is rarely debated, and thus, must be questioned individually. I have my own theories.

If you look at the time period and geography of the setting before the Civil War, you may shockingly find that slavery was a convenient tool for the industrial revolution in this country.

It's like this - the South was agricultural, the North moving toward industrialism, pre-Civil War. The South used the institution of slavery for man power to run their farms and plantations. In the North, however, all man power was paid for their work in the mines

and factories. The business men and politicians in the North recognized the profitability of slavery. And with it, they saw an opportunity. If they freed the slaves and abolished slavery, it would promote the migration of former slaves to the North. There, African-Americans could work in mines and factories for small wages - much less than any free white man would require. This way, they would have enough man power at "slave-labor" to fuel the industrial revolution, thus destroying its agricultural competitor in the South. Northerners did not care about slave's rights, or their equality as human beings. They saw them through the dollar signs in their eyes, as profit, just like always in this capitalist society. Of course, their schemes would not prove lucrative unless the slaves left the plantations (the only homes they knew), and moved North. This would only happen under the facade that the North symbolized freedom and equality - and so the abolitionist movement was born. Your history books don't tell it that way, do they?

Of course not, because history books were written by rich white men who will continue to oppress us with their self-preserving lies until we start to question them. Entire societies have been destroyed by the history book's recording of them simply as "savages", without any attempt to understand other cultures. The government, the politicians, the corporate business men have kept the public quiet and

oppressed all through the propaganda that is fed to us everyday - not only in our history books, but on t.v. and in the media. They lie to you because you dare not question authority;

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The Most Jading Experience

by Andy Used Flag

Is this something that happens to everybody, or is it rare that I watched my own band become the rise and fall of what I thought punk rock was, before I realized what punk rock was? Punk rock is what you wear and what you sell: NOT A MOVEMENT . . . NOT A LIFESTYLE. Or, is lifestyle style: your clothing, your spiky hair, my spiky hair, that I've grown tired of - that I've cut off. When I was in high school, I remember liking The Exploited. It's funny just how exploited I feel now.

I'm not writing this as a disclaimer. I'm not writing this because I'm worried about whether or not people who don't even know me will pass judgement on my character - because I don't care about them. I don't need a friend, or an acquaintance, who would judge me that quickly, anyway. I guess I am having trouble abiding by that anymore too, though. So, I won't befriend myself either. It really sucks when every time you see spiky hair, or someone who looks very similar to you, you think about whether or not this person has a fucking clue what it's like to be different - or whether I even know what it's like to be different - or whether or not it even matters, as long as you can drink as much as the next person. Which brings up "Davey Destroyed the Punk Scene". Who was it about? All of us. Every person who didn't care who the fuck I was until I cut my mohawk back. Well, it's gone again, so ignore me again. And, ignore everyone else who doesn't look like you too, 'cause they're probably cool, I mean, Not.

I used to love Anti-Flag, I think. I don't know if I loved Justin and Pat, or if I loved who they pretended to be, or if I just loved the music, but there was something there . . . that was lost. The Meaning maybe? When Justin's lyrics turned into an autobiography of his dream to go all the way to the top. And that's fine for him to want that. It is the American way. As much as I loath it, I won't physically stop someone from pursuing it. But, I don't want to be taken there, or to help someone get there. I was tired of the photo shoots so long ago; just more pictures that I was embarrassed to have taken. It's funny how, the more I hated taking the pictures, the better they turned out. So, are all rock stars really pissed off? 'Cause they take such good photographs. It's troubling that I found out there was a big photograph of me, looking like a complete fool, in Thrasher magazine by an old friend of



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It is scary to know that you can't just stop someone from taking advantage of you by quitting the band. You can't halt communications to take care of it, when they already don't care about you. I don't mean not caring in every sense (Pat is a bit less guilty in this paragraph). Taking advantage goes far beyond material things like vans and photographs. Eight months later, I haven't shed one layer of skin, yet. I think it's getting hot in here.

So, where do I stand? Underneath it all with the face of an ass that's plastered on cereal boxes, and the voice of a baby doll; you can pull my string a million times . . . I have little left to say. I am tired of political philosophy; no two people can agree. I am tired of lifestyles; the world needs no more style. I am tired of the lack of movement; even if I stand still, I'm going somewhere better. What a wonderfully jading experience.

Andy Used Flag

***Since Andy wrote this, 3 articles in Pittsburgh newspapers were released with photographs of him, mentioning him several times in each article. Andy was NOT contacted by Anti-Flag or the 3 writers before the articles were published. The price of the New Red Archives CD went up \$2 without Andy's consideration or approval. ***

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FACT SHEET/SERIES OF EVENTS

Oct. 12, 1995 - Jonny E. Gammage, a 31-year-old African-American male, is stopped by police while driving a Jaguar owned by his cousin, Pittsburgh Steeler Ray Seals. In the course of seven minutes, Gammage is brutally beaten and suffocated by five Pittsburgh-area police officers. Gammage committed no crime.

Oct. 16 - An autopsy shows that Gammage was beaten, especially around the head and groin areas, and that death resulted from suffocation when pressure was applied to his neck and chest.

Nov. 3 - A six-member coroner's jury unanimously recommends that criminal homicide charges be filed against the five police officers involved in his death.

Nov. 27 - Ignoring the jury's findings, District Attorney Bob Colville announces that he will file charges against only three of the five officers. He charges Brentwood Lt. Milton Mulholland and Patrolman John Vojtas with third-degree murder, official oppression and involuntary manslaughter, and charges Baldwin Borough Patrolman Michael Albert with involuntary manslaughter. The two other officers in the case, Whitehall Sgt. Keith Henderson and Patrolman Shawn Patterson have yet to be charged.

Dec. 28 - Allegheny County Judge James McGregor orders the three cops to stand trial for the misdemeanor charge of involuntary manslaughter, the lowest form of homicide.. McGregor dismisses third-degree murder and official oppression charges against Mulholland

WE DEMAND JUSTICE

On October 12, 1995, Jonny Gammage was stopped in Brentwood by police. He broke no laws; his only crime was being a black man in a white neighborhood, driving a car that the police felt he should not have. For this, Gammage , a young, successful man was beaten to death, his breath crushed out of his body. Now, the police who murdered him want to get off. Already, of the five police who killed him, only three are being prosecuted. Albert's lawyers claim that "Gammage's actions largely contributed to the reactions of all the officers..." Vojtas' lawyers are trying to say that he wasn't at the scene when Gammage died because he was being treated for a cut on his finger. But these claims are contradicted by the coroner's jury which unanimously recommended that all five of the officers be tried for criminal homicide.

The prosecutors called as their star witness, Whitehall Police Sgt. Keith Henderson, one of the cops who participated in the murder. This cop clearly represents the defense. In testimony, he defended his actions and those of his fellow police officers. Henderson painted Gammage as the aggressor, and said he would have shot him if he had had a clear view. He said his fellow officers did nothing wrong. Why was he a star witness for the prosecution?

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JUSTICE JUSTICE JUSTICE

Nov. 3 - A six-member coroner's jury unanimously recommends that criminal homicide charges be filed against the five police officers involved in his death.

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The District Attorney's office would not prosecute Henderson for his crimes, nor seek felonie charges against the other four.

As a former Pittsburgh police officer and homicide detective, District Attorney Colville has a conflict of interest in this case, and thus, should not be prosecuting this case.

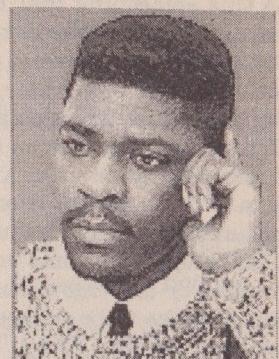
Colville has disregarded findings of the coroner's jury who unanimously recommended that all five cops be charged with criminal homicide.

He also failed to file charges against Keith Henderson and Shawn Patterson, two of the cops who participated in Gammage's death.

He then continued to use Henderson as a witness, in spite of the fact that Henderson clearly was defending the cops' actions in the pre-trial hearings.

Colville also allowed for the defense to badger another of his witnesses, County Coroner Cyril Wecht, without objection. This led to Judge Cashman declaring a mistrial when Wecht demanded that Mulholland tell the jury what he had done.

JUSTICE JUSTICE JUSTICE JONNY



WHAT YOU

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Wecht "tainted the jury" with the statement [to defense attorney Patrick Thomassey], "No. It's not for me to tell you what your client did. It's for the client to tell me, the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what he did, what he was doing there and why he was participating in this. It's not for me to cleave out."

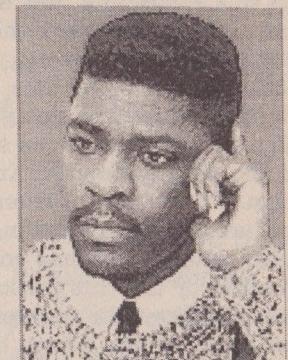
This declaration that Mulholland should testify came on the heels of a battery of questions from the two defense attorneys who demanded that he describe exactly what that particular officer did that night, and to declare Gammage's death an "accident". Wecht refused.

Justice should not be overlooked and forgotten. It should not be forgotten that Jonny Gammage was only 31-years-old. Civil rights should not be overlooked. It should not be forgotten that Jonny Gammage had violated no laws when he was tortured and beaten by police in Brentwood until he died.

WE MUST DEMAND THAT PROSECUTORS DO THEIR JOB AND PROSECUTE POLICE WHO BRUTALIZE.

All information has been received from press packets and sponsors of the "Rally for Justice for Jonny Gammage" - the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice, Coalition of African-Americans for Justice, Campaign for a New Tomorrow, Alliance for Progressive Action, and The Merton Center.

JONNY



WHAT YOU



Call the District Attorney's office at (412) 350-4400 and express your concern at his handling of the case. Question his ability to be objective since he was a former police officer. Demand that all five officers be charged with criminal homicide and that the jury be selected from Allegheny County or one with similar demographics.



Call U.S. Attorney Frederick Theiman's office at (412) 644-3500 to express concern that Jonny Gammage's civil rights were violated because he was black and all of the officers that killed him were white.

and Vojtas.

May 16 - Allegheny County Judge David Cashman, who is assigned to hear the case, rules that the jury will be chosen from outside of Allegheny County.

June 7 - The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decides jurors in the trial of Mulholland and Albert, who will be tried together, are being selected in Chester County; jurors in the trial of Vojtas will be selected in Lackawanna County. This decision has been condemned by many civil rights and community leaders. Chester County is less than 6% Black and Lackawanna County is less than 1% Black while Allegheny County, where the crime took place, is 11.9% Black. According to the Oct. 6 issue of the Post-Gazette,...both Chester and Lackawanna counties have had their jury pools

challenged by local lawyers who contend there aren't enough blacks being called for jury duty.

Oct. 16 - Misdemeanor trial against Mulholland and Albert begins with an all white jury. Surprise witness Frank Belajac, a tow truck driver says he witnessed the officer initiated attack that led to Gammage's death but was afraid to come forward because he feared police.

Oct. 18 - Judge Cashman rules a mistrial claiming that county Coroner Dr. Cyril Wecht "tainted the jury" with the statement [to defense attorney Patrick Thomassey], "No. It's not for me to tell you what your client did. It's for the client to tell me, the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what he did, what he was doing there and why he was participating in this. It's not for me to cleave out."



HIS LAST WORDS WERE "KEITH, KEITH, I'M ONLY 31"

courtesy of FOCUS magazine - Interview by Brian Connolly

Richard Lyons works at Carnegie Mellon University as a copier service specialist for the CMU Publications/Printing & Copy office. In October, Lyons was called for jury duty and found himself serving as foreman of the six-person jury on the coroner's inquest into the death of Jonny Gammage. This jury recommended that all five officers be charged with criminal homicide.

FOCUS: Dateline NBC interviewed you and three other jurors for over two hours for the segment they aired last week, and the jurors had a minute on the final program?

RL: Somewhere between a minute and three minutes, between either viewing us or hearing what we had to say. If I stated a whole paragraph, they used maybe one line of that paragraph, which can be very misleading.

FOCUS: You said the Dateline program looked like an episode of "Top Cops".

RL: From the questions we got, and the way we answered them, we thought it was basically going to be based on what the jury's decision was and how we came to decide it. When we viewed it, and we didn't get to see anything before any one else did, the video was like "Top Cops". They show Lt. Mulholland apparently following a car that was driving erratically from lane to lane. It was more of a television prop, and it was very unfair, because now it's going to put that thought in people's minds that this is what the officer was seeing. We heard testimony that said differently. That was very misleading. They let the other officers, like Babish [Wayne Babish, Brentwood chief of police, who was not at the scene] and Vojtas do a lot of talking, defend themselves, versus letting the media hear what the jury had to say -- as far as this is what this officer did, and this is how the other ones testified to it, and this is why we came to a unanimous decision. Again, [the media] just gave us very brief statements. It seemed to favor the cops more than it favored why the decision was made.

FOCUS: Babish said on Dateline that Mulholland couldn't see who was in the Jaguar Gammage was driving,, the windows were tinted, and said he did not know the race, the sex, or the number of occupants.

RL: He made it sound like the whole car was tinted. The back window was tinted. The way that was stated was correct to a point, but when you heard the testimony from the other officers they stated that the side windows were not tinted. Again, that is just one point. When they actually got to the car, they could see there was only one occupant and it was a Black male.

FOCUS: You said that Mulholland asked for Vojtas by name when he called for backup.

RL: Right. When Mulholland was on the stand, he was questioned by [Chris] Conrad, the assistant DA, and was asked to describe from the start what happened. Mulholland said he left a parking lot and noticed a black Jaguar hit its brakes as it passed him. He followed him for a mile and a half to a mile and three quarters, with no lights, just following within 16 feet. He noticed the brake lights flashing on like he was slowing down and picking up speed. Now, if you know Route 51, that's a slight downhill grade, so in order to stay under the speed limit, you are going to have to tap your brakes. But as far as going lane to lane, that never happened. When he decided to pull the black Jaguar over, he radioed for backup. Brentwood and Whitehall all cover each other's calls. When Mulholland radioed, he asked for John Vojtas by name, not just for backup. When Mulholland hit his lights, Gammage pulled into the right lane, thinking the car was going to pass him because it was on call. There are three red lights at that spot on 51, approximately 60 feet apart. Gammage went through the light as he was pulling into the right hand lane. In the papers it said he was running red lights and driving erratically, even though Mulholland testified that he was not exceeding the speed limit. All he stated was that the brake lights kept flashing on. Mulholland walked up to the driver's side door and asked for his license and owner's card. Then Henderson showed up and took the position behind the vehicle, shined his flashlight, walked him

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Gammage went through the light as he was pulling into the right hand lane. In the papers it said he was running red lights and driving erratically, even though Mulholland testified that he was not exceeding the speed limit. All he stated was that the brake lights kept flashing on. Mulholland walked up to the driver's side door and asked for his license and owner's card. Then Henderson showed up and took the position behind the vehicle, shined his flashlight, pulled his weapon, and pointed it at Gammage. Mulholland went back to his car and began calling to see if the Jaguar had any warrants. Then the third officer, Vojtas, showed up. Vojtas testified he shined his flashlight, and pulled his weapon on Gammage. Henderson testified that he couldn't hear Gammage talking, but he could hear that Gammage and Vojtas were exchanging a lot of words. Vojtas ordered Gammage out of the vehicle. When Gammage came out of the car he was holding a weekly schedule book and a cellular phone. Vojtas knocked them out of his hands with the flashlight. Henderson came around the car and Vojtas grabbed Gammage, wrestled him alongside the car, and went down on the ground between the Jaguar and the police car. Mulholland ran over and jumped on. It went from checking on warrants and everything is calm and cool, to a guy on the ground with three police officers on top of him. Something had to happen when Vojtas showed up. We [the jury] feel that Vojtas instigated Gammage into saying something for him to want to strike him and for Henderson to get involved.

FOCUS: Vojtas said Gammage was reaching between the seats.

RL: Reaching between the seat and the console. He said he told him to keep his hands in view but he kept reaching between the console and his seat, where they later said they found a bag of marijuana.

FOCUS: You examined the marijuana?

RL: The bag of marijuana, including the plastic wrapper it was in, was about the size of a cigarette butt or a little bigger. Even with that, the coroners stated they used a special sweeper that vacuumed that vehicle five different times -- the filters were studied under a microscope and there was absolutely nothing found in that vehicle. Everything was negative. Without our having made this as part of the charge, all the jurors were in agreement that the marijuana was not Gammage's.

FOCUS: What happened next?

RL: Albert responded. He was out by the cloverleaf on 51. He seemed to get there in a hell of a hurry. That is hell of a distance. You couldn't have gotten there in the time he said he did without a siren and really hauling ass. As he was responding, another officer, Patterson called in. Albert ran over and pulled out his collapsible baton. The papers say he placed the baton on Gammage's back to help Vojtas and Henderson pull him to the ground. But Gammage was already on the ground with Vojtas, Henderson and Mulholland. Those three officers testified that Albert came in and started hitting Gammage in the neck, left and right side of the face, in the throat and on his back. He hit him so many times the baton flew out of his hand. Vojtas told Gammage to assume the position by putting his foot on his neck, but it was more like he jumped on his neck, lost his balance, then kneed him in the back. Albert knelt on Gammage's back after losing the baton. Patterson came in a few seconds behind Albert, with his flashlight, one of those great big black steel flashlights that hold like eight batteries Albert testified he hit Gammage four to five times in the thighs with that flashlight before assuming the same position as Lt. Mulholland. When Albert was asked where the other officers were, what parts of Gammage's body they were on, he said he didn't recall. When Patterson was asked, he said he didn't recall where Albert was, even though they came in right behind each other, and they were only fighting one man... Henderson moved to the back of the body. He testified that he hit Gammage directly in the groin 10 to 12 times with a billy club, and also hit him in the upper thighs eight to 10 times. Henderson didn't know

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FOCUS: They testified that Gammage continued moving?

RL: They said he continued to move, but the funny thing is that every single cop testified that he never uttered a word, except to say, "Keith, Keith, I'm only 31." That was their testimony in the coroner's inquest, but those words are not in any one of the five police reports they submitted. Why would they state they heard Gammage say that, the only thing they heard him say, yet, when asked anything pertaining to what another officer was doing, they don't recall. The one thing Gammage said is not in any one of those police reports. That's very strange.

FOCUS: Who is Keith?

RL: Everyone was under the impression that Gammage was looking at Keith Henderson. Did he know Keith Henderson? How would Gammage, at 1:30 in the morning, if he didn't know Henderson, catch that nameplate while he is getting his ass kicked and dying? Most police badges don't state the full name. For him to make that remark seemed very weird.

FOCUS: Did Henderson say he never met Gammage?

RL: I don't think he was asked if he ever met him.

FOCUS: At this point Vojtas got bit?

RL: Vojtas had Gammage in a headlock. He punched him five or six times as hard as he could in the face. Henderson testified that at the same time he was delivering the blows to Gammage's groin, Vojtas' thumb entered Gammage's mouth. Where he got hit, and the way he got hit, Vojtas is lucky he should have a thumb. It is funny that Henderson testified to that -- if he was in the rear of the body striking him in the groin, how could he tell that Vojtas had his thumb in Gammage's mouth? When he was asked which officer was on which shoulder, he can't recall.

FOCUS: At that point they called the paramedics for Vojtas.

RL: Albert got off Gammage's back and tried to find a leg restraint. Henderson and Vojtas were still trying to handcuff him.

FOCUS: Gammage's left arm was under his body?

RL: Right. His right arm was across his back, where Albert had been kneeling. Mulholland was spent and he couldn't do anymore. An EMS put the leg restraint on Gammage.. While this was happening, city police were already there... One officer testified that when he arrived the body was motionless but Vojtas told him "if the son of a bitch gets up, put him down." Who is lying now? The papers said that Mulholland was the first to turn Gammage over and notice he wasn't breathing. Yet the testimony in court was that the EMS guy was the first to turn Gammage over, and was the first to order police completely off him. When the doctor got there, Gammage was unconscious and the paramedics were working on him. They applied CPR on him, they used the paddles on him several times. It had to be pretty difficult while he is handcuffed in front. That is why a lot of us [the jury] were upset when the officers made statements that they were very concerned about Gammage's health and well-being. If they were so damn concerned, why didn't they at least un-cuff him? Testifying that they were concerned for him and never thought he was in such bad shape is just ridiculous.

CAN DO

 Call the disciplinary board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court at (412) 565-3173 and file a complaint.

 Circulate the petition demanding that a special prosecutor be appointed in this case since the DA is not seriously pursuing criminal charges against the cops.

 Join a political organization in your area that can teach you more about how to seek peace and justice.

 Write to Rotten Propaganda for more information.

GOV. RIDGE'S

LABOR POLICIES WILL CAUSE THOUSANDS TO DIE

courtesy of the Committee to Reverse the Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis

On May 16, 1996, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed into law a bill which immediately removed 220,000 low income people from eligibility for medical assistance. With the stroke of a pen, Ridge knowingly condemned thousands of people to death, and made himself guilty of Nazi crimes against humanity. Specifically, Ridge has set into motion a plan that will carry out, "murder and ill treatment of civilian populations," through, "the inadequate provision of surgical and medical services." Under the principles established in the Nuremberg trials of Nazi criminals after World War II, Ridge would be judged to have known (or should have known) that he was carrying out such heinous crimes.

Nuremberg criminals were

and facilities -- as the Nazis did -- on the vicious principle that prisoners are "useless eaters".

The next step, as under the fascists, would be to introduce slave-labor industries into the prisons, by letting private companies come in to run for-profit organizations. Bills to permit this have been introduced repeatedly in the last few years, but have not yet passed (although they have in other states, like Virginia).

Ridge's excuse for this policy is also like the Nazis: WORK is the solution. He

them to the highest possible called for directly extent, at the lowest possible suppressing the power of degree of expenditure."

So far, labor in Pennsylvania has opposed the privatization, and factories behind the walls. They realize that it will mean replacing union labor with non-union employees, and will also lessen the safety of those around the prisons.

As House Democratic leader H. William DeWeese put in his March 14, 1996, weekly newsletter, "The motive of the Ridge administration is clear, and it is NOT the safety of the people who live

in wages and benefits. This aspect of the policy, Ridge has made a top legislative priority, and pushed through a bill to change the rules for workers' compensation. The bill will make it easier for employers to terminate or reduce the benefits of those who they claim can work -- including an outrageous provision that would deny disability benefits after 500 weeks, for those whose loss is less than 50 percent capacity. As labor leaders have pointed out, losing a leg would count less than 50 percent disability.

The workers' compensation bill would also prohibit workers from earning more in compensation than they would while working, and guarantee some discounts to small businesses.

At the Pennsylvania House debate on May 15, 1996, both Republicans, as well as

Democrats, expressed concern that the bill



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Nuremberg criminals were hung; we demand that Ridge be impeached from office. If we do not do so, we are as guilty as those we condemned as "good Germans" for tolerating the Nazis. If we do not act, it CAN and WILL happen here.

Besides cutting off the poor and sick from medical assistance, Ridge is implementing policies toward the labor movement that can only be described as fascist. These are 1) the privatization of prisons, and move toward expanding prison slave labor; and 2) the cutback of labor rights,

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Democrats, expressed concern that the bill, referred to as the "Conference Committee Report", will eliminate medical care from those who won't be able to get it any other way.

"WHEN PENNSYLVANIANS BEGIN TO DIE AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNOR SIGNING THIS REPORT, I FORESEE -- UPON PROPER COMPLAINT -- THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONSIDERING AN INDICTMENT AGAINST RIDGE, WE WILL HAVE TO GET INVOLVED."



put it this way, "Lest we forget the educational value of correctional industries, people on earth are boot camps, and even work gangs, that brings us to the Ridge administration is work. Soon there will be no more work."

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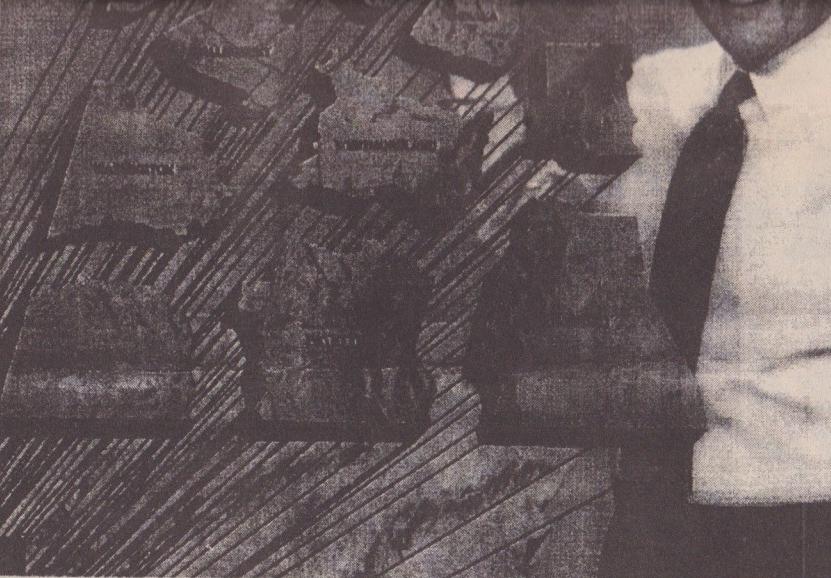
have known (or should have known) that he was carrying out such heinous crimes.

Nuremberg criminals were hung; we demand that Ridge be impeached from office. If we do not do so, we are as guilty as those we condemned as "good Germans" for tolerating the Nazis. If we do not act, it CAN and WILL happen here.

Besides cutting off the poor and sick from medical assistance, Ridge is implementing policies toward the labor movement that can only be described as fascist. These are 1) the privatization of prisons, and move toward expanding prison slave labor; and 2) the cutback of labor rights, starting with workers' compensation.

The Ridge administration has introduced legislation to turn the state's prisons and jails over to private management.

The companies vying for the job are Wackenhut Corp. and Corrections Corp. of America. They are selling their services, here as elsewhere, on the basis that they will reduce the cost to the state. In other words, they will reduce expenditure on food, medical services,



put it this way, "Lest we forget the educational value of correctional industries, boot camps, and even work gangs, that brings us to work. Soon there will be work gangs in every region.

We have 45 industrial shops located in 18 state correctional institutions. Our products range from office furniture to nursery products . . . We are producing quality products and are saving taxpayers money."

Fritz Saukel, head of slave labor for the Reich (who was hanged at Nuremberg), put it this way, "All the inmates must be fed, sheltered and treated in such a way as to exploit

near state prisons, where some of the most dangerous people on earth are imprisoned. The motive of the Ridge administration is to cut state expenses that benefit ordinary citizens in order to increase state expenses that benefit private interests."

In mid-June, 1996, the Pennsylvania General Assembly voted up an amendment to the state budget, which prevents prison privatization and outsourcing of jobs. But, as with the health cuts that the legislature first defeated, Ridge is unlikely to have given up.

Nazi labor policy also

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Democrats, expressed concern that the bill, referred to as the "Conference Committee Report", will eliminate medical care from those who won't be able to get it any other way.

"WHEN PENNSYLVANIANS BEGIN TO DIE AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNOR SIGNING THIS REPORT, I FORESEE -- UPON PROPER COMPLAINT -- THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CONSIDERING AN INDICTMENT AGAINST MR. RIDGE, POSSIBLY FOR HOMICIDE. FURTHERMORE, THOSE LEGISLATORS IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO VOTE FOR THIS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1441 SHOULD BE INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY."

--Rep. Harold James (D-Philadelphia).

1997: BE READY FOR NEW WARRANT

by Leonard Weinglass Chief Counsel

The most significant new development respecting Mumia [-Abu Jamal]'s case during 1996 was the dramatic reappearance of Veronica Jones, a prostitute who had given damaging testimony against Mumia in 1982. In a signed statement to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Jones admitted she had lied during the trial after being pressured by the police into changing her story.

Shortly after the event of December 9, 1981, Jones told police investigators that she had seen two men run from the scene of the shooting. At the time, Mumia lay helpless on the sidewalk, nearby to the fallen officer, after having been critically wounded himself. Four others had also reported seeing someone flee the scene. However, throughout the trial, the prosecutors denied anyone left the scene and that it was only Mumia, his brother and the slain officer who were present.

When Jones took the stand at Mumia's trial, she confirmed the prosecutions theory, denying she ever told the police she saw anyone run, and insisting no one had left the scene after the shooting. Fourteen years later, when the defense investigators finally located her, she readily admitted that that testimony was a lie. It was a lie procured by two plainclothes detectives who had visited her in jail just prior to her taking the stand and promised her help in getting out from under serious felony charges if she agreed to do nothing to help Mumia's defense. Facing more than a decade in prison, and being 21-years-old and threatened by the loss of her three infant daughters, Jones complied and told a false account of what she saw.

Being apprised of the fact that Mumia had been convicted, at least in part, by admitted false

false testimony, in an application filed by Mumia's attorneys, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania directed that Jones be called to the stand anew before the trial judge to give a truthful account of what she saw and what happened to cause her to testify falsely. But the trial judge, Albert Sabo, would have none of it. He indicated he didn't want to hear from her - and even questioned the authority of the Supreme Court to order such a hearing. Mumia's attorneys raced back to the Supreme Court, asking it to remove Judge Sabo and name a new judge who wouldn't frustrate the obvious need for this testimony. Within days the Supreme Court directed Judge Sabo to do what he had thus far refused to do - hear from Jones. Duly chastised by the Commonwealth's highest court, Judge Sabo had no alternative but to allow her testimony. And on October 1, Jones took the stand in a charged courtroom in Philadelphia to finally testify truthfully and in Mumia's presence.

She related what she had seen on the night in question: two men running from the scene of the shooting immediately after she heard shots and saw the officer fall. Without any hesitation she told of how the detectives had visited her in jail before she testified and threatened her with a long prison sentence and the loss of her children if she helped Mumia. Crying, and clearly contrite over the fact that her testimony helped convict an innocent man, she stated it was time to come forward and tell the truth.

A number of other witnesses were also called to testify in nearly three days of hearings. They supported Jones in her retraction, even those called by the prosecutors: 1) she did give the police an account of two men running from the scene within one week of the shooting;

2) Afterwards, and just before she testified in Mumia's case, she was arrested and faced serious felony charges; 3) She changed her testimony from the statement she initially gave the police and denied seeing anyone run; 4) Subsequently, she was given probation on her felony charges. The prosecutors offered no explanation as to why Jones changed her story during the trial from which she had given the police initially. The District Attorney was clearly upset as their case against Mumia began to unravel. In an outrageous replay of the intimidating tactics used against Jones in 1982 they arranged to have her arrested on old warrants as she left the stand, but not before offering her to change her testimony back to her original story in the face of her imminent arrest. Indignant, Jones refused - and was promptly led away in handcuffs. Even the hostile press was appalled at these developments and a long piece appeared in the New York Times criticizing the actions of the DA. Nonetheless, Judge Sabo, in an opinion the following month, predictably rejected Jones' retraction and denied Mumia a new trial.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has ordered briefs on the issue of Jones' new testimony. Mumia's attorney will file their briefs on December 7, 1996, and the DA's office has until January 6, 1997, to respond. Those briefs will then be joined to the briefs on the 21 other issues raised during the hearings in 1995, and previously briefed in 1996. Hopefully, in late winter 1997 or early spring 1997 the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on all these issues and render a decision before the year is out.

If Mumia loses his appeal in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, then Governor Ridge might possibly sign a new death warrant. It will then be up to the federal courts to stay that new warrant. Those who support Mumia should remain vigilant throughout 1997 as these critical events unfold. Also, additional

ON THE MOVE!

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ON THE MOVE!

The city of Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell hired a private lawyer named Judith Harris from the law firm of Morgan, Lewis, & Bokius for \$325,000. Harris will represent the city of Philadelphia in lawsuits based on the May 13, 1985, bombing and massacre of MOVE babies, women, and men. A city that claims to have no money for schools, no money to feed the hungry, no money to provide housing for the homeless, or basic services to residents, but has \$325,000 to pay an outside attorney. It's an outrage and every taxpayer should be up in arms, especially since the city is already paying at least 150 lawyers full time to represent the city in any litigation! Not only is this a feeble attempt to defend what is absolutely indefensible, as well as a complete waste of tax dollars; it is also a dirty, underhanded scheme. MOVE don't believe that for one minute that Judith Harris is gonna get all that money. We believe that most of the money is going to go to Morgan, Lewis, & Bokius, and will be filtered back to Rendell later in campaign contributions. The point is that no amount of money or anything else will ever justify bombing and burning babies, women, and men alive because it can't be justified. The MOVE organization ain't lettin' this rotten system get away with nothin'; every time Rendell or any other official creates some devious scheme to try to convince people that what they did on May 13, 1985, was justified, MOVE is gonna be right there exposing their

MOVE!

by Ramona Africa

MOVE!

woman, especially no black woman, should ever be persuaded by a few pieces of silver and empty promises to defend those that bombed and burned black babies alive. MOVE knows why Rendell wants a black face on the defense team, but Harris can never explain how she can attempt to defend city officials' masacre of innocent babies, women, and me, innocent by system standards because we had not been convicted of anything as of May 13, 1985. This ain't no different than defending the misfits that bombed those three little black babies in Birmingham, Alabama 30 years ago, or defending officials that bombed the black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1992. At what point does honesty and righteousness become more important than money or political ambition? MOVE ain't gonna allow nobody, including Harris to pull the wool over our eyes again.

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ON THE MOVE!
Ramona Africa

THE PELICAN BAY DECISION

courtesy of 'The Pelican Bay Information Project'

After nearly a year of deliberating on a class action lawsuit filed by prisoners at California's Pelican Bay State Prison Security Housing Unit (SHU), Federal Judge Thelron E. Henderson came down with a 344 page decision in January, 1995. The decision titled "Madrid vs Gomez" strongly condemns the prison administration, describing the staff as "criminally reckless", and ruled that the California Department of Corrections (CDC) had violated the 8th Amendment of the US Constitution which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

Judge Henderson found that the Pelican Bay Staff participated in deliberate use of "grossly excessive force" while punishing prisoners and that this was condoned by the prison administration. He states that this included lethal force and that the guards practiced "gratuitous violence". During the trial the judge heard numerous descriptions of prisoners being hog tied, assaulted while restrained in chains, and beaten in back rooms. He condemned the prison's use of lethal force as a first resort and ordered a halt to "the pattern of needless and officially sanctioned brutality".

Judge Henderson also blasted the Pelican Bay Administration's failure to provide adequate physical and mental health care to the prisoners in the SHU. In the decision he often quoted the prisoner's medical expert who testified during the trial, "The entire system is grossly inadequate and unsatisfactory in meeting the health care needs of the inmate population. It is deplorably inadequate". Those on the medical and psychiatric staff are poorly trained, disorganized, and cynical about their patients. Prisoners with serious conditions are often accused of faking their illness. In his decision, the judge quoted the prisoners' psychiatric expert who found "an almost obsessive preoccupation by [the medical] staff with the possibility that an inmate might be manipulating." Henderson was very concerned about prisoners who could be "driven insane" while inside the SHU. The decision states that the CDC "created a prison which would necessarily and inevitably result in an extensive demand for mental health services, yet they scarcely bothered to furnish mental health services at all." Indeed the CDC has transferred hundreds of psychologically disturbed prisoners (labeled as violence prone) from other prisons to the SHU. The judge ordered that prisoners with mental illness be screened out and removed from the SHU.

Regrettably, Judge Henderson did not order the closing of the SHU, but he did demand significant changes in the policies and practices of the prison administration and staff. To initiate these changes the judge appointed a "Special Master" to negotiate with both the prisoners'

POLITICAL

by Ward Churchill

The government of the United States maintains that there are no political prisoners incarcerated in the country's penal facilities. The official perspective has been, perhaps, best expressed by John Clark, warden of the federal "super maximum" prison for men at Marion, Illinois: "While it's true that some of the inmates held here subscribe strongly to certain ideologies, they are not here because they hold those ideological beliefs. They are here because they have engaged in criminal acts." Those inclined to accept this convenient self-assessment should consider the following examples, drawn from the treatment accorded those broadly defined as belonging to the political left.

There are several common denominators among the cases sketched [below]: 1) Each man assumed an important political leadership role in his community by opposing the imposition of US socio-economic policy upon it; 2) Consequently, each was specifically targeted for political "neutralization" by the FBI and cooperating state/local police agencies; 3) Each was sent to prison on the basis of evidence which was/is suspicious, to say the least. Variations of any one of these stories might be repeated at least 150 times over, the absolute minimum number of individuals presently being held under similar circumstances in US prisons. Even in situations where those imprisoned may have engaged to some extent in the acts attributed to them, there are associated problems of a highly political nature. These concern questions of double jeopardy, selectivity in application of the law, and disparity in sentencing (vis a vis right wing defendants). Consider the following:

KAZI TOUR is an Afro-American political activist who became very visible during the confrontations concerning the busing of school children in Boston during the late 1970s. In February 1982, he was arrested on an interstate highway in Massachusetts and charged with firearms violations. Convicted in federal court, he was sentenced to serve six years. He was then hustled into state court and tried a second time for precisely the same offense. Convicted again, he was sentenced to serve four to five years, with the state sentence to begin as soon as the federal sentence had expired. Appeals on the basis of obvious double jeopardy have been to no avail. Yet the government can be shown to have consistently adopted the opposite stance where right-wingers are concerned. For instance, in 1975, when Pine Ridge Sioux tribal President Dick Wilson - a solid ally of the FBI in its campaign to destroy the American Indian Movement - faced serious charges as a result of his ordering the physical assault of AIM defense attorney Roger Finzel, he was advised to go before a tribal court he controlled, plead guilty and receive a \$45 fine. Justice Department prosecutors then dropped their charges against Wilson, arguing that to haul him into federal court - where he might have received a lengthy prison sentence if convicted - would represent "a patent breach of the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy."

DR. ALLEN BERKMAN, a founder of the John Brown Anti-Klan League, is presently serving a 12-year sentence stemming from allegations that he provided medical attention to Marilyn Buck, a white activist accused of having been wounded during an unsuccessful 1981 attempted expropriation of a Brinks truck in West Nyack, New York. Berkman is the first individual to have been imprisoned on this basis since Dr. Mudd - the physician alleged to have rendered similar services to John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President

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Regrettably, Judge Henderson did not order the closing of the SHU, but he did demand significant changes in the policies and practices of the prison administration and staff. To initiate these changes the judge appointed a "Special Master" to negotiate with both the prisoners' lawyers and the CDC to develop a plan to comply with the court's findings and orders within 120 days. In May, Henderson granted a 120 day extension to September 10. If a plan cannot be agreed upon, it will be up to the Special Master to recommend a plan to the court. Unfortunately, the CDC is infamous for successfully ignoring and obstructing past court orders for improving prison conditions.

One great weakness of Henderson's ruling is his refusal to declare the Pelican Bay SHU itself unconstitutional. Ignoring international law and particularly the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, he let stand the practice of long term solitary confinement and sensory deprivation. In a very contradictory statement the judge writes that although the SHU "will likely inflict some degree of psychological trauma upon most inmates confined there for more than brief periods...we are not persuaded...that the risk of developing an injury to mental health of sufficiently serious magnitude due to current conditions in the SHU is high enough for the SHU population as a whole." Taking this position even further, the judge states that there is "nothing improper about lengthy or indefinite segregation for discipline or security reasons." Unfortunately, Henderson does not see basic control unit conditions as psychological torture. Therefore he let stand the most serious human rights violation in his decision. Indeed, CDC Director James Gomez, the named

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SUSAN ROSENBERG AND TIM BLUNK are Euro-American activists who were convicted in 1984 of illegally possessing a quantity of dynamite, none of it fashioned into bombs. Both were sentenced to serve 58 years in federal prisons. Their punishments might be usefully compared to that imposed upon Dennis Malvesi, a right wing ideologue convicted during the same period of having actually used explosives to bomb a number of abortion clinics across the nation. Malvesi was sentenced to only 7 years for his more serious offenses, and was released in 48 months. Another interesting comparison might be made to Edward Hefferman, a right wing "survivalist" convicted in the mid- 80s of possessing 1,000 pounds of dynamite and 18 fully constructed pipe bombs; he was sentenced from 6 months to 2 years, and was released after 6 months. The Rosenberg/Blunk sentences are far and away the heaviest for any possessory offense in the history of federal law. They are also two and a half times the average 1985 sentence imposed for kidnapping, three times the average for second degree murder, four times the average for bank robbery, nine times the average for felony distribution of narcotics, ten times the average for assault, and sixteen times the average for illegal possession of firearms (a comparable offense).

LINDA EVANS is a former member of SDS and the Weather Underground. In 1985, she was convicted of harboring a fugitive and using false identification to obtain firearms. She was sentenced to serve three years on the fugitive violation and a total of 42 more on the various weapons charges (all sentences were set to run consecutively, so she is actually serving 45 years). Tellingly, Evans was sentenced in New Orleans, the same federal jurisdiction in which

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Equally unfortunate, the judge's opinion does not address the racist way in which prisoners are selected for placement in the SHU. Prisoners are sent to Pelican Bay without any real due process. Prison "kangaroo courts" allow hearsay evidence and coerced confessions. Often, being accused of gang affiliation is reason enough to be sent to the SHU.

Even though the Pelican Bay SHU was not shut down, the decision was a significant moral victory for the prisoners. Not only did they bring serious scrutiny down upon the CDC, but their suit helped raise public awareness around the issue of control unit prisons and human right violations in US prisons. The brutality of Pelican Bay was featured on many different radio and television shows including "60 Minutes", "20/20", etc. We must continue with our efforts on the outside to help support them in any way we can.

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DR. ALLEN BERKMAN, a founder of the John Brown Anti-Klan League, is presently serving a 12-year sentence stemming from allegations that he provided medical attention to Marilyn Buck, a white activist accused of having been wounded during an unsuccessful 1981 attempted expropriation of a Brinks truck in West Nyack, New York. Berkman is the first individual to have been imprisoned on this basis since Dr. Mudd - the physician alleged to have rendered similar services to John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln - in 1865.

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LINDA EVANS is a former member of SDS and the Weather Underground. In 1985, she was convicted of harboring a fugitive and using false identification to obtain firearms. She was sentenced to serve three years on the fugitive violation and a total of 42 more on the various weapons charges (all sentences were set to run consecutively, so she is actually serving 45 years). Tellingly, Evans was sentenced in New Orleans, the same federal jurisdiction in which Louisiana Ku Klux Klan grand dragon Don Black and several associates had been sentenced two years previously. In 1983, Black and his friends were apprehended on a boat loaded with explosives and automatic weapons, departing for the Caribbean nation of Dominica. Their plan was to invade the island, overthrow its government, and establish a new white supremacist regime. For these blatant violations of the Neutrality Act as well as the same weapons laws over which Linda Evans was imprisoned, the Klansmen all received sentences of ten years or less. Black was released on parole after only 24 months to resume his Klan organizing activities.

Sometimes, matters such as double jeopardy and sentencing disparity are merged with "thought crimes" and/or misapplication of statutes for purposes never intended by their sponsors. Notable has been the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Passed to combat the penetration of labor unions and legitimate businesses by organised crime, RICO has lately been used against plainly political targets. It thus plays an interesting counterpart role to such traditional political catch-allas as "seditious conspiracy". The following examples should prove sufficient to illustrate the point:

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED TASK FORCE (RATF) was an organization of black and white activists committed to continuing community based heroin withdrawal and treatment programs in the African American community after New York defunded the Lincoln Detox Center in 1978. The means chosen to finance the operation was

PRISONERS

expropriation of cash from banks and armored trucks. A number of members were apprehended in a series of arrests and trials beginning in 1981. Despite the fact that the government never attempted to establish that any defendant had sought personal gain through his or her activities (racketeering), several people received severe penalties for "RICO conspiracy". For instance, Silvia Baraldini, an Italian national, was sentenced to 43 years imprisonment solely on this basis. Marilyn Buck and Dr. Mutulu Shakur received 50 year RICO sentences. Another alleged RATF member, Sekou Odinga, received 40 years via two RICO convictions. In each case, the RICO sentences were set to run consecutive to punishments accruing from any other convictions the defendants might have incurred. Hence, activists who otherwise faced less than 20 year sentences - or, in the case of Baraldini, perhaps no sentence at all - found themselves confronting a lifetime behind bars.

THE JONATHAN JACKSON/SAM MELVILLE BRIGADE (THE "OHIO 7")

was a group of Euro American activists endeavouring to cause the US status quo at least some material consequences at home as a result of its international aggression. For example, the group reputably bombed the facilities of several transnational corporations active in apartheid South Africa. Clandestine by definition - and thus unable to hold regular "above ground" jobs - the Brigade is said to have sustained itself between 1976 and 1983 through the expropriation of cash from several banks. Captured in the latter year, six members of the group were put through a series of trials resulting in convictions for specific acts such as bombings, bank robberies, and the killing of a New Jersey state trooper. Correspondingly, they were given lengthy prison sentences: Tom Manning, double-life plus 53 years; Carol Manning, 15 years; Richard Williams, 45 years; Jaan Laaman, 53 years; Barbara Curzi-Laaman, 15; Ray Luc Levasseur, 45 years. The seventh group member, Pat Gros Levasseur was convicted of harboring a fugitive - her husband - and sentenced to five years. With all this already in hand, federal prosecutors took the defendants back to trial in 1989, charging RICO conspiracy. Prosecutors used the same evidence and alleged the same acts for which the seven had already been convicted. Had it been successful, this double jeopardy gambit would have added at least 40 years to each prisoner's existing sentence. Fortunately, a Hartford, Connecticut jury saw through the ploy and voted to acquit.

Laura Whitehorn, one of the Resistance Conspiracy defendants, has been held in preventative detention since May 1985. She was charged with no specific "violent act" and, even if it were demonstrated that she actually had performed the four bombings - all occurring in empty federal buildings - associated with her "conspiracy", the government has yet to show how this adds up to a threat to the general public. In the event that she is eventually acquitted, which seems possible, she will have already served a rather hefty sentence for no reason whatsoever.

ALL official denials notwithstanding, the United States is not only holding a significant group of political prisoners, it also intends to increase their numbers substantially in coming years. The signs are also strong that this is so because the government's forecast for the short run future shows worsening socio-economic conditions for people of color, generating vastly increased numbers of social prisoners. This in turn is expected to produce a rapid sharpening of political struggle which will fill new facilities designed for the political conscious. What is at hand is far from the usual rather tame "softball" prison system.

YOU AND THE POLICE:

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES & REALITY

courtesy of ACLU, Pittsburgh Chapter; Pittsburgh Branch NAACP; University of Pittsburgh, School of Law.

All people, including minors, are entitled to courteous and respectful treatment by the police. If you believe that the police have treated you improperly or violated your rights, it is recommended that you NOT deal with the situation at the scene. Rather, discuss the incident with an attorney and/or pursue the matter through legal channels afterwards. The subsections [below] on RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES contain information about your Constitutional and legal rights. The REALITY subsections contain practical suggestions on how to respond to any police encounter. Although legally you may have the right to engage in particular behavior or demand certain things from the police, the REALITY subsections suggest that it may not be in your best interests to assert all of the rights at the time of your encounter.

IN ANY ENCOUNTER WITH POLICE - Rights and Responsibilities

1. The police can stop and question you if they have reasonable suspicion that you have done something illegal. In such a stop, they can "pat-down" your clothing to check for a concealed weapon if they suspect you have one. Do not physically resist, but make it clear that you do not consent to any further search.
2. You are not legally required to answer a police officer's questions. You cannot legally be arrested for refusing to answer questions or to identify yourself to a police officer. However, if you are stopped in a car, you must show all necessary motor vehicle documents.
3. What you say to the police is always important. What you say can be used against you, and it can cause the police to arrest you. Although "bad mouthing" or criticizing a police officer may be legally protected speech, it is not recommended that you do so.
4. You do not have to consent of any search of yourself, your car or your home. If you do not consent to a search, be sure you tell the police. If you do consent to a search, it can affect your rights later in court.
5. If the police say they have a search warrant, ask to see it and check to make sure that it lists the right person or address.
6. Do not interfere with, or obstruct, the police - you can be arrested for it.

Reality

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THE STATE IS PREPARING for what it perceives must lie ahead. For the most part, the opposition is not. To the contrary, frighteningly large numbers of progressives have lately taken to embracing police power as a means of curbing "the drug epidemic in our inner cities", as if the allocations going into amassing that very power weren't in themselves sufficient to begin to offset the vile conditions spawning the epidemic in the first place. Too many supposedly enlightened people in this country have joined the chorus demanding more prison space to "rid our streets of predators" as if the very dollars to be sunk into concrete and steel couldn't be used to quell the honest rage leading inevitably to violence. A stunning proportion of ostensibly progressive individuals have queued up to find a prescription for social harmony in the disarming of themselves and every "civilian" around them; this in the face of a lethally burgeoning police power. Incredibly, large numbers of self proclaimed progressives manage to find some sort of "victory" for social activism in "forcing" the state to expand its already Pavlovian regimentation of everyday life, proclaiming even the sidewalks of some cities to be no smoking zones; the penalty for disabling a single device to detect cigarette smoke in an aircraft lavatory is now greater than the amount paid by Rockwell International for its nuclear contamination of the entire Denver metropolitan area. Ah, sweet victory!

THIS EMBRACE OF REPRESSION is eerily reminiscent of the non-fascist

German acquiescence to nazism as a solution to their nation's problems in 1932. People who say they want social progress have got to come to grips with who and what the enemy is. That's because there really are enemies out there, and they ain't street kids selling dope, or working class Latinos who smoke in public places, or Inuits who trap fur bearing animals for

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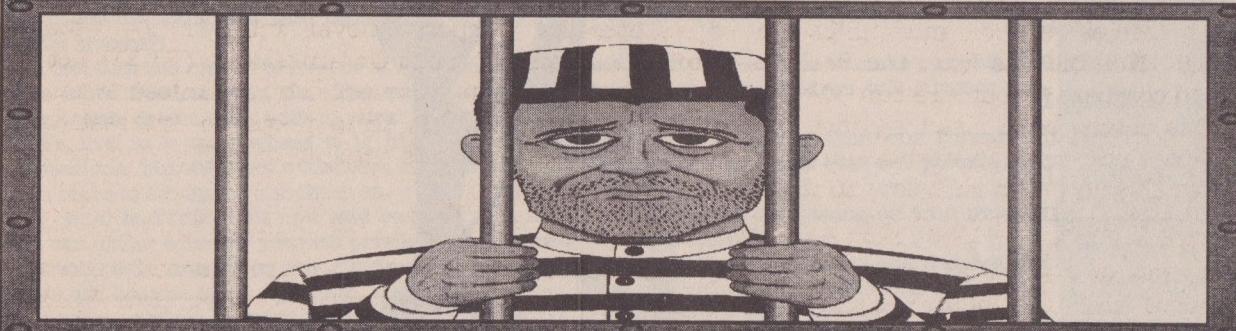
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2. Stay calm, control what you say, as well as your body language and emotions.
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5. Keep your hands where the police can see them. Don't make any sudden movements.
6. Don't run.
7. Don't touch a police officer.
8. Don't resist even if you believe you are innocent.
9. Don't interfere when an officer is doing his/her job.
10. If you believe that you have been the victim of police misconduct:
 - Don't complain or tell the police that they are wrong or that you will file a complaint against them.
 - Remember the officers' names, badge numbers and/or patrol car numbers.
 - Write down everything you can remember as soon as you can. Memories fade quickly.
 - Try to find witnesses. Try to get their names and phone numbers.
 - If you are injured, take photographs of the injuries, get medical attention, and tell the doctor what happened.
 - File a written complaint with the police department's internal affairs division, known as the Office of Municipal Investigations, and follow through on the matter.

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IF THE REALITIES of proliferating political police, political prisons, and political prisoners don't become central preoccupations of a lot more people in the near future, there's not going to be much of a future for anyone.



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○ If you are injured, take photographs of the injuries, get medical attention, and tell the doctor what happened.

○ File a written complaint with the police department's internal affairs division, known as the Office of Municipal Investigations, and follow through on the matter.

Further assistance can be secured by contacting the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the NAACP and/or a private attorney.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED OR TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION

Rights and Responsibilities

1. You have the right to remain silent and to talk to a lawyer before you answer questions from the police. Tell the police nothing except your name and address. Do not give explanations, excuses or stories. This information may be used against you. You can make your defense in court based on what you and your lawyer decide is best.

2. Ask to see a lawyer immediately. If you cannot pay for a lawyer, you have the right to a free one if the charges are serious enough to get you jail time. You should ask the police for permission to contact a lawyer and ask how you may do so. [Call your] county's Public Defender. Do not talk without a lawyer.

3. You have a right to make one free telephone call. The call should be made to a lawyer or a family member who will contact a lawyer for you. The police may not listen in on a phone call to a lawyer. THIS IS NOT COMPLETE ADVICE. BE SURE TO CONSULT A LAWYER!

IRELAND

by Fiona Fabulous

I grew up around the names Sacco and Vanzetti. My father was born in Dublin, Ireland. He joined the IRA at a young age. My grandfather was involved in the 1916 uprising. I'm not new to the way people react to the mention of the IRA, the anger that crosses their faces, the terrorist remarks. He was involved in the political faction, Sinn Fein. No, he never bombed a bus full of school children, but he was dropped from a plane that he was told was thousands of feet in the air by British soldiers. The plane was, in reality, only a fraction of that high. This was a tactic used to intimidate Irish political dissidents by the British as means of getting them to divulge information. Can you imagine the psychological terror my father withstood?

When you grow up in a country so immersed in undeclared civil war, politics, not the "so, how was your day?" routine become the talk of the dinner table. How many of your friends were arrested that afternoon, and when the next secret meeting would be held replace dating and proms.

But even my father was too young for Sacco and Vanzetti. To him, it happened on a different country before he was born. But Sacco and Vanzetti could have been his friends, people he went to those "secret meetings" with, away from British eyes.

Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian anarchists, arrested and convicted of the murders of a paymaster and a guard that took place after a payroll robbery. This occurred in South Braintree, Massachusetts on April 15, 1920. Their arrests took place during the height of the "red scare", where scores of bombs were mailed to judges, cabinet members and other public officials. Unable to single out one person to lay down responsibility for the bombs, the Justice Department made plans for a nationwide raid in which federal agents working with local police would in one, single evening round up thousands of supposed

found on Sacco. The pamphlet gave the time and date of a lecture that Vanzetti was going to be speaking at. This, in the eyes of the public and a biased jury (made up of 10 men, some of which had made biased statements against the accused before the trial), linked them still further to the "red menace".

Neither Sacco or Vanzetti, though terrorized by police brutality and intimidation, ever confessed to the crimes of which they were accused. Nor did they denounce their political views. Sacco's last words before death in the electric chair being, "Long Live Anarchy!" Under great scrutiny themselves for their political beliefs, the accused went to great lengths to protect their friends from police harassment by hiding their anarchist literature and refusing to divulge information about other party members.

Their alibis for the afternoon of the crime were ignored. The witnesses to vouch for these alibis were also ignored. From the day the verdict of guilty was brought, until six years later when Sacco and Vanzetti were executed, their lawyers filed eight motions for a new trial, all of which were ignored and denied by the same judge. New evidence, along with new witnesses for the defense never got to see their day in court.

The day Sacco and Vanzetti were executed, along with them died Celestino F. Madeiros, a young man who had confessed to being at the robbery site and who had Sacco and Vanzetti had not been there.

This was not a case that did not get any media coverage. On the contrary, committees for the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti were established, great letter writing campaigns took place along with protest marches. The protests were not isolated events. On the night of the execution, mobs stoned US embassies in several European and

South American countries and thousands of workers went on strike in France, Italy and the US. In Boston, heavily armed police patrolled outside of Charleston

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So, this was the political climate that Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested in. The perpetrators of the murder and robbery were described to police as "foreign looking", and three weeks later at an automobile garage, Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested. The evidence against them? Well, being that they were both Italian immigrants, their "foreign look" and a cap at the scene of the crime. Hair analysis was not what linked the cap to Sacco or Vanzetti, mind you, but the fact that Sacco was known to wear a similar cap. When they were arrested, Sacco had on his person a .32 Colt automatic pistol, similar to that involved in the murder. It was at the time, as it still is,

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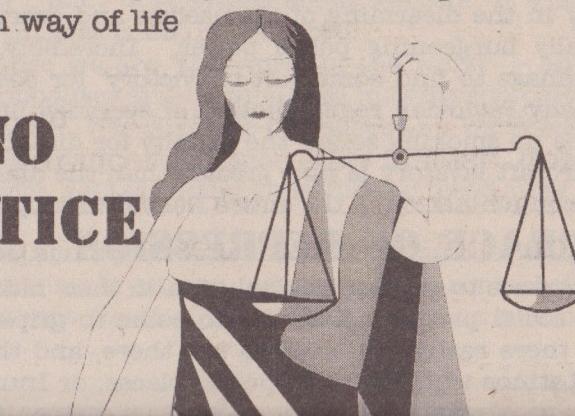
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So, maybe this occurred 80 years ago. But that does not mean it does not occur today. The Mumia-Abu Jamal case, along with that of Leonard Peltier seem to parallel this case considerably; people being persecuted for their political beliefs. The history of the American justice system seems to cater to the idea of justice for the majority - the majority who do not speak out against the American way of life

**NO
JUSTICE**



NO

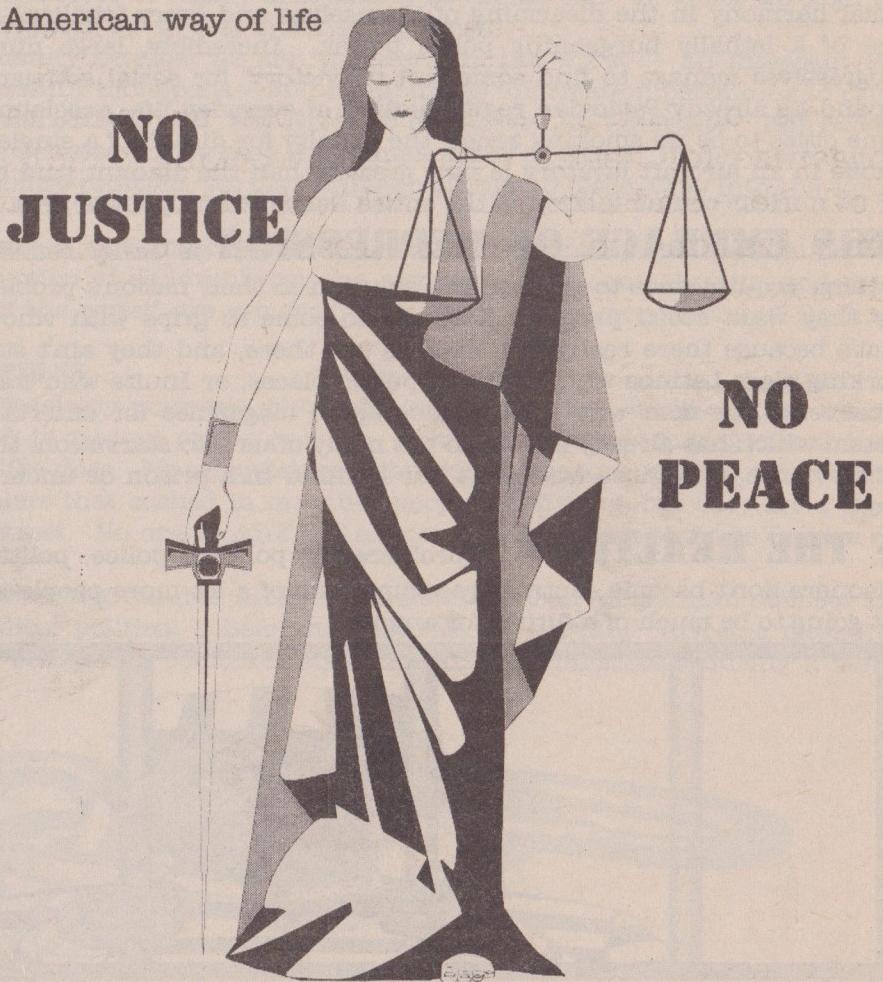
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And as far as the defendants themselves? Never has a picture of the American dream been so misconstrued. Sacco and Vanzetti came to the United States looking for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, only to find the electric chair. For the duration of their lives inside this country, they worked odd jobs; Vanzetti washing dishes and doing unskilled labor, Sacco working as a water boy and at a shoe factory. When they were arrested an International Workers of the World (IWW) pamphlet was

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WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT IMMIGRATION?

courtesy of the Campaign for Real Equitable Economic Development (CREED)

The vast majority of US citizens trace their origins to immigrants. Still, many of these citizens have been quick to blame the more recent arrivals for everything from crime to drugs to unemployment. In fact, the US has a long history of scapegoating immigrants during hard times, just as Jewish people were scapegoated for the economic problems of Germany in the 1930s. The scapegoating led many German people to take part in - and many others to passively accept - the murder of millions of Jewish people.

The immigration "problem" our country is facing now is really a symptom of a larger problem: the unbalanced global distribution of wealth. Centuries of colonialism and slavery have created regions where most of the people live in extreme poverty. Multinational corporations use this poverty to bring down wages globally by forcing countries to compete for jobs. Severe political repression - often backed openly or secretly by the US government - prevents workers in many countries from organizing for better wages and conditions. Until we address these very real problems, the situation will only get worse.

WHY DO IMMIGRANTS COME HERE? To escape violence, to be able to feed their families, to reunite with family members living here, or simply to have a better life. Many would prefer to stay where they are, but just cannot survive there.

IS IT OUR FAULT THEY HAVE THESE PROBLEMS? Often the wars and economic desperation they are fleeing are created either directly or indirectly by our own government's policies, and by the policies of multinational corporations and institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. If we don't actively oppose these policies, we share the blame for them.

WHY DO SO MANY COME HERE ILLEGALLY? Virtually all immigrants would come here legally if they could. Racist US immigration laws put strict limits on the number of people who can emigrate from certain countries - countries whose people are mostly poor, and mostly of color. Our government makes it virtually impossible for people from these countries to even visit the US...unless they are very wealthy.

CAN WE AFFORD TO LET MORE PEOPLE IN? Why not? Statistics show that an influx of immigrants actually boosts the economy. The conservative Alexis de Tocqueville Institution found that US states with higher immigrant populations have lower rates of unemployment. Besides, the cost of enforcing our strict immigration laws - policing our borders, processing and deporting "illegals", and processing legal immigrants through our complex bureaucratic system - is immense. We could cut expenses and generate more income by replacing this system with one that allows everyone in, and gives all who want to work a social security number.

BUT DONT THEY COST US BECAUSE THEY DONT PAY TAXES? Studies show that immigrants - both documented and undocumented - pay \$70-90 billion in taxes each year and use less than \$50 billion in services. In California, undocumented immigrants contribute \$30 billion in tax revenue and use just \$18.7 billion in services, according to Washington's Urban Institute. Many undocumented immigrants pay more income tax than they owe because they are afraid to file and claim a refund. Besides, if all immigrants were granted legal work permits, they would be entitled to all the same benefits and rights as everyone else, and they would pay the same taxes as everyone else.

DONT THEY BRING DOWN THE WAGE SCALE? It's true that many companies prefer to employ undocumented immigrants because they are easier to exploit. But undocumented immigrants because they are easier to exploit. But undocumented immigrants bring down the wage scale because they are undocumented, not because they are immigrants. Most are not aware that US labor laws protect them just as they protect any other worker - and they fear that if they complain about how they are treated, they will be deported. If immigrants were allowed to work here legally, and if all workers were more aware of their

¿QUE HAY DE MALO CON LA INMIGRACION?

Por favor reproduzcan y distribuyan este volante.

La mayoria de los ciudadanos des los EEUU tienen origines inmigrantes. Sin embargo, muchos de estos ciudadanos rapidamente la echan la culpa a aquellos que han llegado mas recientemente de todo lo posible, desde el crimen, las drogas hasta del alto indice de desempleo. De hecho, los EEUU tiene un largo historial de utilizar a los inmigrantes como chivos expiatorios durante apocas duras, de la misma manera como los judios fueron utilizados para justificar los problemas economicos en Alemania durante los anos treinta. Este proceso llevo a muchos alemanes a participar en la massacre de millones de judios - y llevo a muchos otros a aceptarla pasivamente.

El "problema" de la inmigracion que enfrentamos es realmente el sintoma de un problema mas grande: el desbalance mundial de la distribucion de la riqueza. Siglos de colonialismo y esclavitud han creado regiones donde la mayoria de las personas viven en condiciones de pobreza extrema. Corporaciones internacionales utilizan estas circunstancias de trabajos. Extrema represion politica - habitualmente con apoyo abierto o secreto del gobierno de los EEUU - previene a trabajadores de muchos paises de organizarse para obtener mejores salarios y condiciones de trabajo. Hasta que no encaremos estos problemas reales, la situacion, solo empeorara.

POR QUE VIENEN LOS INMIGRANTES AQUI? para escapar de la violencia, reunirse con sus familias o buscar una mejor vida. Muchos preferian quedarse en sus lugares de origen pero no pueden sobrevivir alli.

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PODEMOS COSTEAR LA ENTRADA DE MAS GENTE? Por que no? Esta disticas muestran que la entrada de nuevos inmigrantes en realidad mejora la economia. La conservadora institucion Alexis de Tocqueville encontro que los estados con las mas alta poblaciones de inmigrantes tienen las mas bajas tasas de desempleo. Ademas los costos de hacer cumplir nuestras estrictas leyes de inmigracion - patrullando, deportando "ilegales" y procesando inmigrantes legales a traves de un complejo sistema burocratico - es inmenso. Podemos cotar los costos y generar mas ingresos, dejando entrar a todos y dando un numero de seguro social a todos que quieran trabajar.

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countries to compete for jobs. Severe political repression - often backed openly or secretly by the US government - prevents workers in many countries from organizing for better wages and conditions. Until we address these very real problems, the situation will only get worse.

WHY DO IMMIGRANTS COME HERE? To escape violence, to be able to feed their families, to reunite with family members living here, or simply to have a better life. Many would prefer to stay where they are, but just cannot survive there.

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WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? Defend the rights of immigrant workers in the US. Protest your government's support of the violence and repression that make life difficult - sometimes unbearable - in many countries. Support the efforts of unions and grassroots movements to organize for better wages and working conditions both here and abroad. Speak out for an alternative immigration policy that treats all people with dignity and respect.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH MCDONALD'S

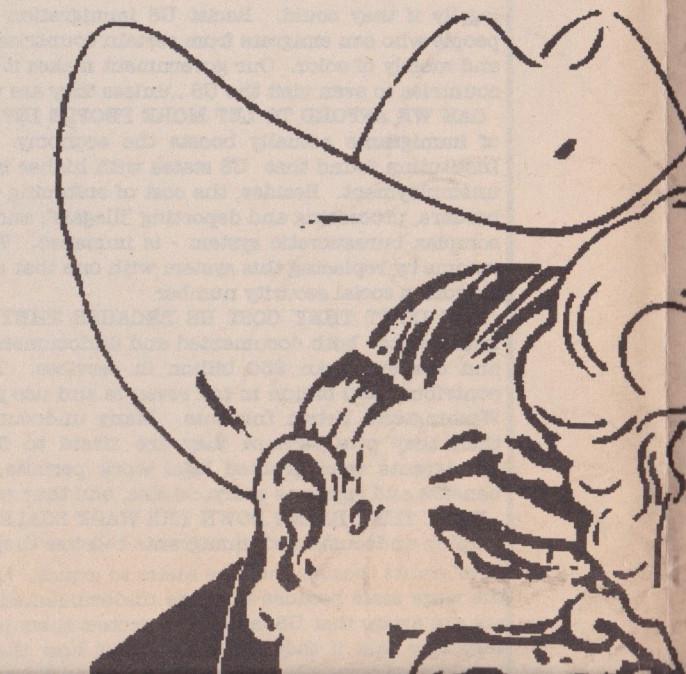
courtesy of the US McLibel Support Campaign

Criticism of McDonald's has come from a huge number of people and organizations over a wide number of issues. In the mid-80s, London Greenpeace drew together many of those strands of criticism and called for an ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF ACTION AGAINST MCDONALD'S. This still takes place every year on OCTOBER 16, with pickets and demonstrations all over the world. McDonald's, who spend over one billion dollars every year on advertising and promotions, are trying to silence the world-wide campaign by threatening legal action against those who speak out. Many have been forced to back down because they lacked the money to fight a case. But this year, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, two supporters of London Greenpeace will defend themselves in a major High Court libel trial. No legal aid is available, so, the unwaged environmentalists are representing themselves. McDonald's have engaged in a huge COVER UP, refusing to disclose masses of relevant documents. Also, the defendants have been DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO A JURY, after McDonald's argued that the issues in the case would be "too complex" for members of the public to understand. Despite all the cards being stacked against them, Steel and Morris are determined to expose the truth about McDonald's. Protests against the \$24 billion a year fast food giant continue. It's vital to stand up to intimidation and to DEFEND FREE SPEECH. The McLibel trial, brought by the McDonald's Corporation against Steel and Morris began in June 1994 and was only expected to last until Spring 1996. It is already the longest libel trial in British history and looks likely to become the longest civil trial ever.

HERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE EVIDENCE FROM THE TRIAL GIVEN BETWEEN JANUARY AND JULY 1995:

The libel is alleged to have occurred in 1989/90. Approximately 180 witnesses from the UK and around the world are giving evidence in court on all the issues in the case, namely:

- The connection between multinational companies like McDonald's, cash crops and starvation in the third world.
- The responsibility of corporations, such as McDonald's, for damage to the environment including the destruction of rainforests.
- The wasteful and harmful effects of the mountains of packaging used by McDonald's and other companies.
- McDonald's production and sale of food with a low fibre, high fat, saturated fat, sodium and sugar content, and the links between a diet of this type and the major degenerative diseases in western society, including heart disease and cancer.
- McDonald's exploitation of children by its use of advertisements and gimmicks to sell unhealthy products.
- The barbaric way that animals are reared and slaughtered to supply products for McDonald's.
- The lousy conditions that workers in the catering industry are forced to work under, and the low wages paid by McDonald's.
- McDonald's hostility towards trade unions.



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Despite being flown over as the Corporation's most senior representative in order to give the background as to why they brought the libel case, ROBERT BEAVERS did not know when the action was begun or who made the decision or how it was made. He believed that the UK President PAUL PRESTON was responsible for the original decision. He claimed the [Greenpeace] factsheet "tarnished our image, brand and reputation", but the Defendants asserted that McDonald's "has a bad reputation in society". He accepted that all the main "defamatory" criticisms in the factsheet had been levelled by others at McDonald's in the past, in the USA and elsewhere, and "are in the public domain in America to some extent" but could not think of an example where they had sued anyone for libel. The Defendants then stated that, "The reality is the McDonald's Corporation could not sue anybody in the United States for the text of this factsheet. They are joining this action in the UK because they want to use this court as a platform all over the world."

BEAVERS, Senior Vice President and member of the Board of Directors since 1984, explained that McDonald's have pioneered production methods and "created an industry" which has "helped to expand the eating out sector". Half of all the meals in the USA are now eaten outside of the home, he said - an increase from one in every three around 15-20 years ago. He said this was a world-wide trend, that "lifestyles are changing" and McDonald's have played a part in that. In countries where there had been previously no hamburger tradition, he said, advertising was "part of the parcel" in establishing the company's influence on the diet. Their food was advertised as "nutritious" he said.

BEAVERS stated that, back in the 1960s, McDonald's were "the trendsetters in the food industry, in particular the fast food industry, in utilizing national television... It was at that time that we introduced Ronald McDonald." He accepted that, "No other marketing factor has been more important in defining what McDonald's is about

McDonald's exploitation of children by its use of advertisements and gimmicks to sell unhealthy products.

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animals reared for McDonald's products - especially chickens and pigs - spend their lives in factory farms with no access to the open air. He asserted that, "Whilst it is true that a lot of chickens live in large sheds, it is not true of pigs. The pigs used for McDonald's food in this country at least, live in the open air in fields." DR GREGORY (expert witness for McDonald's) had visited Bowes in order to prepare his expert report for the court, but had only been shown the outdoor system. When questioned by RAMPTON QC, BOWES testimony concentrated on the outdoor system of rearing that the company used, rather than the indoor. But under cross examination by the Defendants, BOWES admitted that there were "two separate buying channels for pigs" (indoor and outdoor) and that McDonald's bought indoor pork and would only get

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BEAVERS was challenged on why McDonald's is still using ozone damaging blowing agents (HCFCs) in their packaging in the Philippines, Turkey and Hong Kong, 15 years after the US Congress banned aerosol sprays because of concerns about the ozone layer. The Defendants referred to a 1995 Corporation leaflet distributed in Hong Kong admitting HCFC use by McDonald's HK under the heading, "We Care About The Ozone Layer!" Although BEAVERS recognized the benefits of in store customer recycling of their packaging, and that the working of it "does not cause difficulty", LANGERT (a previous McDonald's witness) had said "less than 10" stores out of 10,000 are doing this.

DAVID WALKER of McKey Foods admitted that, "As a result of the meat industry, the suffering of animals is inevitable."

ASHLEY BOWES, Director of GD Bowes Ltd., McDonald's pig meat supplier, said that Bowes owns roughly 100,000 pigs, 40,000 were reared on their own farms, the others were reared on a contract system. The company also buys about 300,000 pigs each year from approximately 80-100 other suppliers, to be slaughtered at the company's abattoir. During his opening speech at the start of the trial, RAMPTON QC had claimed that the London Greenpeace factsheet was libellous because it stated that some of the



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TIMOTHY CHAMBERS, Quality Assurance Manager from Midland Meat Packers LTD.



McDonald's spend a fortune on advertisements trying to cultivate an image of being a "caring" and "green" company that is also a fun place to eat. Children are lured in (dragging their parents behind them) with the promise of "free" toys and other gimmicks. But behind the smiling face of Ronald McDonald lies the reality - McDonald's only interest is money, making profits whoever and whatever they can.

• ROBBING THE POOR - Vast areas of land in poor countries are used for cash crops or for cattle ranching, or to grow grain to feed animals to be eaten in the West. This is at the expense of local food needs. McDonald's continually promote meat products, encouraging people to eat meat more often, which wastes more food resources. Seven million tons of grain fed to livestock produces only one million tons of meat and by-products. On a plant based diet and on land shared fairly, almost every region could be self-sufficient in food.

• DAMAGING THE ENVIRONMENT - Forests throughout the world, vital for all life, are being destroyed at an appalling rate by multinational companies. McDonald's have at last been forced to admit to using beef reared on ex-rainforest land, preventing its regeneration. Also, the use of farmland by multinational and their suppliers forces local people to move onto other areas and cut down further trees. McDonald's are the world's largest user of beef. Methane emitted by cattle reared for the beef industry is a major contributor to the "global warming" crisis. Modern intensive agriculture is based on the heavy use of chemicals which are damaging to the environment. Every year McDonald's use thousands of tons of unnecessary packaging, most of which ends up littering our streets or polluting the land buried in landfill sites.

• RUINING YOUR HEALTH - McDonald's promote their food as "nutritious" but the reality is that it is junk food - high in fat, sugar and salt and low in fibre and vitamins.

A diet of this type is linked with a greater risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other diseases. Their food also contains many chemical additives, some of which may cause ill health and hyperactivity in children. Don't forget, too, that meat is the number one cause of food poisoning incidents. With modern intensive farming methods, other diseases - linked to chemical residues or unnatural practices - have become a danger to people, too (such as BSE).

• EXPLOITING WORKERS - Workers in the fast food industry are paid low wages. McDonald's do not pay overtime rates even when employees work very long hours. Pressure to keep profits high and wage costs low results in understaffing, so staff have to work harder and faster. As a consequence, accidents (particularly burns) are common. The majority of employees are people who have few job options, and so, are forced to accept this exploitation, and they're compelled to "smile" too! Not surprisingly, staff turnover at McDonald's is high, making it virtually impossible to unionise and fight for a better deal, which suits McDonald's who have always been opposed to Unions.

• MURDERING ANIMALS - The menus of the burger chains are based on the torture and murder of millions of animals. Most are intensively farmed, with no access to fresh air or sunshine, and no freedom of movement. Their deaths are barbaric; "humane" slaughter is a myth. We have the choice to eat meat or not - but billions of animals massacred for food each year have no choice at all.

• WHAT'S WRONG WITH McDONALD'S is also wrong with all the junk food chains like Wimpy, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wendy's, Burger King, Taco Bell, etc. All of them hide their ruthless exploitation of resources, animals and people behind a facade of colorful gimmicks and "family fun". The food itself is much the same everywhere - only the packaging is different. The rise of these firms means less choice, not more. They are one of the worst examples of industries motivated only by profit, and geared to continual expansion. This materialist mentality is affecting all of our lives, with giant conglomerates dominating the marketplace, allowing little or no room for people to create genuine choices. But alternatives do exist, and many are gathering support every day from people rejecting big business in favor of small scale, self organization and co-operation. The point is not to change McDonald's into some sort of vegetarian organization, but to change the whole system itself. Anything less would still be a rip-off.

• WHAT YOU CAN DO - Together we can fight back against the institutions and the people in power who dominate our lives and our planet, and we can create a better society without exploitation. Workers can and do organize together to fight for their rights and dignity. People are increasingly aware of the need to think seriously about the food we and our children eat. People in poor countries are organizing themselves to stand up to multinationals and banks which dominate the world's economy. Environmental and animal rights protests and campaigns are growing everywhere. Why not join in the struggle for a better world? Talk to friends and family, neighbors and workmates about these issues.

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• MORE ADDRESSES are located on the last page of the paper.

chicks each day*. Eggs that do not hatch are put through the macerator, which he agreed might include chickens still alive in the eggs. The company kills an additional 200-300 unwanted chicks each day by gassing them with carbon dioxide. Chicks are transported to the broiler units when they are a few hours old. About 550 broiler chickens are killed daily.



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(the largest of dozens of abattoirs supplying beef for McDonald's hamburgers) said that 600-800 animals are killed there daily. Cattle are transported their live from all over the country, sometimes hundreds of miles. The court heard that McKey's had calculated that McDonald's used beef from one in 12 (eight percent) of all cattle slaughtered in the UK. CHAMBERS admitted his company did use electric shock goads to move the cattle around, contrary to claims by McDonald's that this practice was banned by their suppliers. DR ALAN LONG, an independent researcher for over 40 years, gave evidence for the Defense. He had studied at first hand conditions for cattle and pigs on farms, at markets, in transportation and slaughterhouses. His evidence was that animals had been turned into production "machines", subject to stress and distress, disease abuse, and a short and totally unnatural life. Dairy cattle (as used for



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JOHN ATHERTON (responsible for food and employee safety in McDonald's UK) admitted that McDonald's receives between 1500-2750 customer complaints of food poisoning a year, maybe more than that. The company also received complaints of foreign bodies in food sold. WALKER estimated 800 complaints regarding hamburgers, mostly concerning bits of plastic. ATHERTON stated it was slightly more for chicken, mostly concerning pieces of bone. The court heard that there had been several occasions when the authorities had taken action against McDonald's for selling raw or undercooked meat products including an incident in November 1994 when a 5-year-old girl was served undercooked Chicken McNuggets containing salmonella. The McNuggets were tested by local health officials and declared unfit for human consumption. The court also heard how the company now admitted responsibility for a serious food poisoning outbreak in Preston in 1991, when several customers were hospitalised as a result of eating undercooked burgers contaminated by potentially deadly E.Coli O157:H bacteria. They also admitted responsibility for a similar outbreak



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MARK PATTISON, Group Technical Manager of Sun Valley Poultry Ltd. (a subsidiary of Cargill - SVP), gave evidence for McDonald's about the conditions under which chickens were reared to produce the meat for chicken McNuggets and McChicken sandwiches. 27 million chickens are reared every year in Europe alone to supply meat to McDonald's. About 20 percent of SVP's turnover is devoted to McDonald's custom. DR PATTISON said that SVP hatches chicks four days a week "in order of 200,000

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SID NICHOLSON, McDonald's UK Vice President who was head of Personnel from 1984-1991, admitted that McDonald's set their starting rates for crew employees for most of the country, "Consistently either exactly the same as the minimum rates of pay set by the Wages Council or just a few pence over them." He agreed that for crew aged 21 or over the company "couldn't actually pay any lower wages without falling foul of the law." He stated that when the Wages Council abolished the legal protection of a minimum wage for under 21s (in 1986), "I was quite content because it simplified things." However, he said, "I do not accept that McDonald's crew are low paid," and he denied that wages in the catering industry were low compared to other industries. BEAVERS admitted that McDonald's US workers started at the legal minimum wage of \$3.35 per hour. He agreed the company, "Would not be allowed to pay less. I do not consider it [\$3-\$4 per hour] to be low pay. It is a fair wage for the work that is expected," he stated. He refused to reveal his own salary. There were "no hours guaranteed" and 80 percent of the jobs were part time. Approximately 2/3 of McDonald's workers are under 21, and nearly 1/3 are under 18. NICHOLSON denied McDonald's "chose to employ a high percentage of young workers so that they could exploit them for lower wages and make greater profits." McDonald's UK has admitted that it was convicted of 73 offenses in the relation to the employment of young people in the early 80s. Documents revealed that as recently as 1993, an average 2-3 under 18s were showing up on company records as working in excess of 96 hours in a fortnight (48 hours a week) which until 1990 was illegal.

IF THIS IS REFORM, WHY ISN'T ANYONE FARING WELL?

by Sabrina

The Republican "Contract With America" proclaimed that, "Government programs designed to give a helping hand have instead bred illegitimacy, crime, illiteracy, and more poverty." The Republican Congress, hand-in-hand with lawmakers, decided that despite social science studies, welfare causes illegitimacy and single parenthood. The conference report on the new welfare reform legislation states, "It is the sense of the Congress that prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancy and reduction in out-of-wedlock births are very important Government interests." Not only is it absolutely NOT the government's decision how one feels about the RELIGIOUS institution of marriage (re: out-of-wedlock births), but there is very little evidence at all to support a direct connection between welfare and single parenthood. Keeping in mind that the new welfare reform has been written to stop such "immorality", we must first look at what the reform requires of the states, and then, how it will really effect the public.

The federal government, in an

attempt to supposedly cut spending, has shifted the responsibility of public welfare primarily to the states. In doing

lifetime guarantee package; the head of every family is required to work within two years from the time of receiving benefits, or the benefits are terminated entirely. Not only are benefits only extended for two years at a time, but they only will cover a recipient for five years total 20 percent of hardship cases from this time limit. LEGAL immigrants are completely denied any welfare assistance. Any parent under 18 must live with an adult and attend school in order to receive welfare benefits. With all of this for the states to enforce, it's no wonder that many are suggesting to "divert people from applying for assistance in the first place". But there's more...

The new law also mandates states to stiffen their work requirements for welfare recipients. States must ensure that more than half of all adults receiving welfare are employed by 2002 in order to receive block grants from the federal government. And while there are NO provisions for states to provide educational or job training programs, they are required to enforce participation in employment programs. States will have to employ case managers to check up on

recipients to make sure that they attend these programs and are actively seeking employment. This "welfare", as it has been called, mandates unsalaried workers who receive welfare to work in low skilled jobs for low pay. As a matter of fact, the welfare act specifically states that governments "may fill a vacant employment positio" with a welfare worker as long as no lay-offs had taken place. This makes it possible for striking workers' positions to be filled by "welfare" employees -- which may only cause more people to become unemployed. States will also have to maintain Medicaid health insurance for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women, and the elderly. It says that states must be tough on parents who don't pay child support. The list goes on and on.

The states have a lot to enforce and are going to have to rely largely on an unsympathetic public to do it. Welfare rolls recently exceeded 14 million people. And the unemployment rate is decreasing. Research has shown that 95 percent of welfare recipients are women and their children — it also shows that more than half of them DO already work but still

cannot support their families without public assistance. Nearly 60 percent of these women work their way off of welfare but have to return because their jobs ended or they just couldn't make ends meet. K. Mullan Harris, author of "Teen Mothers and the Revolving Welfare Door" stated in the New York Times, "Research has clearly demonstrated that the jobs that welfare mothers can get do not pay high enough wages or provide the employee benefits, such as health insurance, that would permit them to get off of welfare and stay off it." So what does the new welfare reform do to get 95 percent of its recipients into stable jobs? Well, very little; there are no provisions for educational or job training. And without them, it is unlikely that women will be able to improve their ability to get better jobs. Even though this can mean only one thing (an increase in poverty among women and children), that wasn't what the GOP was focused on — they don't care if the poverty level rises, so long as women are married and not "living" off the government, but rather dying because of it. Maybe instead of changing the welfare system, the government should have just stopped calling it welfare, because it fares no one well, except of course politicians and rich businessmen (who write the laws).

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The federal government, in an

attempt to supposedly cut spending, has shifted the responsibility of public welfare primarily to the states. In doing so, the federal government has alleviated much of their own responsibility for the indigent, but has pushed the burden on to fifty unprepared states. While the President and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna E. Shalala, maintain that the new welfare reform will, "change the incentives so that going to work is a more rational choice than staying on welfare", social scientists disagree. They say that the policy makers had their attention focused on the wrong thing; the problem isn't getting people to go to work, it's getting work to pay enough for people to live. Shalala recognizes that, "The government alone cannot make reform work." She adds that, "The culture and practice

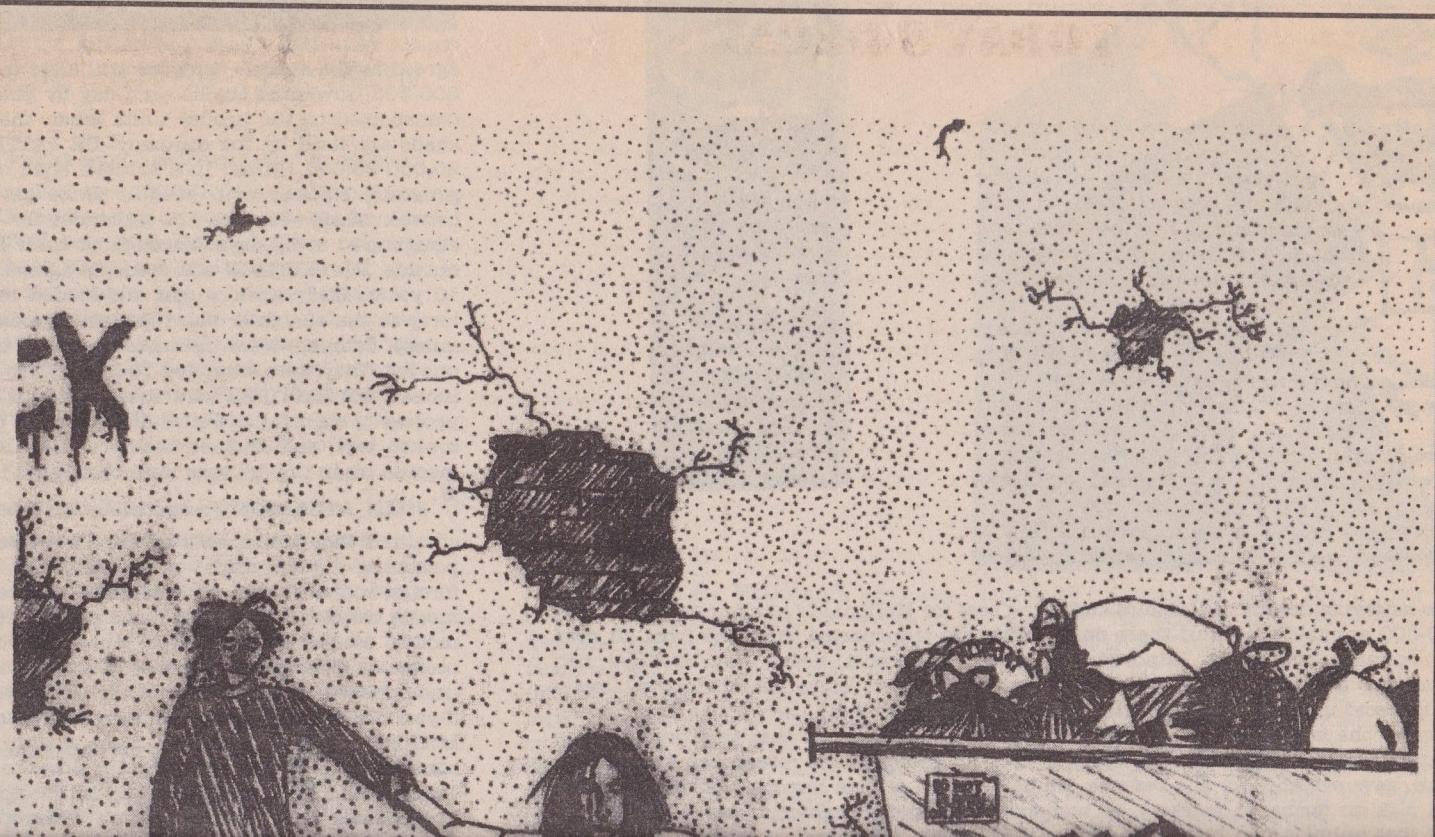
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place. This makes it possible for striking workers' positions to be filled by "welfare" employees -- which may only cause more people to become unemployed. States will also have to maintain Medicaid health insurance for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women, and the elderly. It says that states must be tough on parents who don't pay child support. The list goes on and on.

The states have a lot to enforce and are going to have to rely largely on an unsympathetic public to do it. Welfare rolls recently exceeded 14 million people. And the unemployment rate is decreasing. Research has shown that 95 percent of welfare recipients are women and their children — it also shows that more than half of them DO already work but still

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welfare offices — indeed, of everyone who works with welfare recipients — must change." And change it will, because it has to. The states have been flung into a battle zone; welfare is no longer the handing out of food stamps and checks to eligible recipients. As a matter of fact, food stamps are no longer guaranteed with block grants to the states, and may be done away with entirely at the discretion of each individual state. School lunches for poor children are a thing of the past, as well. And welfare has no

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WELFARE REFORM?

HATE/VIOLENCE/WRONG ANSWER

by Bill

I just saw SEVEN huge guys beat the shit out of ONE skinhead. He had no chance. They were kicking him while he was down and throwing him around the parking lot. When the last punch connected with the side of the kid's head, he fell like a bowling pin. He was out cold. His face was crushed into the pavement. Some of the guys stepped on the kid while they walked to their cars and sped away, anticipating cops. I watched his friends, holding him in their arms as they tried to force back the tears. I watched the bastards walk away after the "beat-down" - you can't call it a fight when it's seven on one - with smiles on their faces. All I did was watch. That's all I could do.

Why did this have to happen? I don't know what happened between the skinhead and the seven pricks before the incident, but I really don't care. Violence is not the answer. What did it accomplish? A kid is either dead or severely hurt, and seven fat fucks are feeling better about themselves. I can't bare to watch this anymore. This has been happening since the dawn of man, but it is time for a change.

We are all human beings. We shouldn't be fighting. We are all related, though most would hate to admit it. Blacks, Whites, Asians, Europeans,

TODAY'S DECAY

by Mike Decay

Dedicated to the memory of all those who have lost their lives (or are now waiting to) as a result of the crudest and most blatantly uncivilized system of torture in existence today...

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

by Neil

The "land of the free and home of the brave" has had this blood on its hands for too long. Currently, the United States is the only western "democracy" that continues to uphold the death penalty. And what for? Nothing more than revenge. It's already been proven that capital punishment does NOT deter crime, and for once the state's actions are NOT motivated by greed (executions cost taxpayers millions more than a life sentencing). We are living in an utterly barbaric and vindictive society which upholds a "life for a life" ideology as acceptable, for no other reason than to outlet its own bloodlust. This is a characteristic perpetuated by a system that keeps us spiraling towards hate by killing (usually in subtle ways like economic deprivation) more and more of us everyday. In addition, our system of crime and punishment is thoroughly racist. You're more than twice as likely to be sentenced to death in this country if you're a minority accused of killing a white person than vice versa. And what's the difference whether an individual murders someone, or whether the state does it? NONE! The end result is the same...one more dead body, one more wave of grief, and a little less humanity in the world. Each time the state executes one of our fellow people, it simply increases our ever growing cynicism towards the value of human life. We learn to disregard it and continue like machines, to fall victim to desensitization. DONT FALL FOR IT! RETAIN YOUR COMPASSION AND YOUR LOVE! Despite what they tell you, it is "cruel and unusual" to keep a person locked up with the promise of death looming ahead. NO wrong is redeemed through retaliation, and true justice is never obtained through the act of murder.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SENTENCE

LIGHT.

another morning of waking to a damp bed and a dry mouth
another day of monotony confinement.

NO, not today

all these years of steady repetition must have jaded my senses
today is different
today brings change
a change that i once feared, but now somehow welcome
i'll have company soon
then the change will begin
and end.

stayed up real late last night thinking
reminded me of the first few nights i was here
when it was new to me
when i wept.

when i wondered.

when i waited.

for what?

i didn't know.

today i do though

today i know exactly what to expect
i've been preparing.

not a day has passed without imagining the arrival of these moments
not a day gone by where i have failed to play out this scenario in my head
always wondering
would it be different?

would i be nervous?

AFRAID

i've had other thoughts too.
where will they take me?

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We are all human beings. We shouldn't be fighting. We are all related, though most would hate to admit it. Blacks, Whites, Asians, Europeans,

change. We have to open our minds to all these differences that we have with each other. We have to be strong and we must stand together as one if we plan on getting our message of love and peace heard. Those who say that love and peace are for hippies are just ignorant.

Ignorance is a very deadly disease whose only cure is education. The problem is that ignorant people don't want to listen to the shit that we have to say. You have to be willing to listen in order to change. And finally, you must think for yourself. Don't take what I'm saying and believe it word for word. Go and find out on your own with these words in mind.

I hope I have gotten through to someone. One person would do just fine because that would be one less person full of hate.

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would it be different?

would i be nervous?

AFRAID

i've had other thoughts too.

where will they take me?

who will be watching?

what will they look like?

i can see them all so clearly in my head.

i also think of freedom

of how freedom exists, but doesn't

of how freedom is a given right, but remains a privilege

i think of a time when people were free

TRULY free

of what one of those people would think about the world today
but it doesn't matter now i suppose.

i have an itch

instinctively i reach to scratch it

then i stop

i focus on the sensation

unbearable yet so indicative

intolerable yet so...ALIVE

i won't scratch it

instead i'll savor it.

i try to remember every itch i've ever had

every sneeze

every step

every breath

of course i can't

it's too easy to take such things for granted.

i wonder how many people before me have had these very same thoughts
how many others have come to appreciate life only a short time before losing it
AND HOW MANY MORE WILL FOLLOW?

oh well

TODAY'S DECAY

by Mike Decay

I was planning to write about my relations with the administrators at my school, but since school started up again, I have found myself right in the middle of more fun and learning (dehumanization and slavery). So, perhaps by the next issue, I will feel that there is a pause in the seemingly constant pressure brought down upon me to succeed and conform in this capitalistic society - enough so that I can see where to start my story and where to end it.

As for now, I will deal with a topic much more important than whining about why I don't like school; realistically looking at anarchy (autonomy, self-rule, etc.) today and deciding how we can progress from there.

To Quote Anti Nowhere League, "I hate people, and people hate me."

I am disgusted by the whole of our society. I find myself trusting fewer and fewer people these days, and it doesn't surprise me why.

We live in a country where, to make yourself "happier" (richer), someone else must get poorer. Our children will grow up in a world, much like ours, where the primary emotion is greed. I do not want that, yet, I realize that I cannot change the world alone.

This is not an essay debunking the state of things presently - since you have taken the time to read this, I am guessing that you feel the same as I. And if not, take my word for it, everything is falling apart . . . or better yet, just look around.

So, I walk around my town and get yelled at, cursed at and things thrown at me. I see no way that the masses of America can rule themselves. I do not intend to have the cave men/women of the world ruin my dream of Autonomy.

I feel the best thing to do, as a first reaction anyway, is to move away - look at the world as a whole and find a place that can suit our needs. We would be the first (to my knowledge) to have a complete idea of the land we choose to live off of, before hand. We can create a land where we can perfect the barter system, and eventually produce an entirely self-sufficient community.

What we are missing in the punk movement is a common ground. We are split up in cities, in separate scenes, which takes away from any sort of organization. Ben Franklin said, "If we don't hang together, we'll all hang separately"

After we have mastered our trade, proven to ourselves that it is possible to live outside of the

to admit it. Blacks, Whites,
Asians, Europeans,

one less person full of hate.

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After we have mastered our trade, proven to ourselves that it is possible to live outside of the dominating , we announce to the world that we have beaten capitalism, communism and found a better way. And then hopefully with our society as the model, the people of the world can do just the same. And if they don't follow our lead, then what can you do? You cannot force freedom on people, they must demand it themselves. That is not to say you cannot open those people's minds yourself to the injustices done to them everyday.

I do not live in dreams. I realize that we could simply be creating a place for rampant drug abuse, chaotic and violent anarchy where madmen run through the streets baring weapons and ill will toward helpless babies. Maybe we will end up falling back into our apathetic nature, and have no food, and be forced to turn to cannibalism to survive; maybe worse.

But if that were to happen, if humans are really so disgusting, then we should be aware of it, and stop fooling ourselves with our enforced-at-gunpoint morals. Wouldn't it just be horrendous if the neighbors found out that little Ricky didn't want to be part of the materialistic, self-centered, fascist system?

I feel that the reason to live, or at least one of the reasons for us to exist is to make our children have more freedom than us. The entire immigrant dream that your children will surpass you, except their dream dealt with physical possessions and the dollar sign.

We live in a time where it is highly doubtful that we will do better than our parents in possessions, but we've got a limitless amount of freedom to gain for ourselves over our parents, and even more to set up for our children.

I could end this right now and be done with it, but that would be me getting off with murder. You can either consider yourself privileged or damned; we are at the beginning.

I will begin organizing our Pilgrimage to Freedom. Please send me your name and address, etc. so we can become more organized, make connections, and begin bringing this little idea to life.

I have no place in mind yet for our Anti-Country, and I welcome any suggestions, whatsoever. Anyone already involved, or with any knowledge of other Free Lands, I would love to know of them.

Thanks for your time. "Anarchy and Freedom is what I want want want want . . .

not a day gone by where i have failed to play out this scenario in my head
always wondering
would it be different?

would i be nervous?

AFRAID

i've had other thoughts too.

where will they take me?

who will be watching?

what will they look like?

i can see them all so clearly in my head.

i also think of freedom

of how freedom exists, but doesn't

of how freedom is a given right, but remains a privilege

i think of a time when people were free

TRULY free

of what one of those people would think about the world today

but it doesn't matter now i suppose.

i have an itch

instinctively i reach to scratch it

then i stop

i focus on the sensation

unbearable yet so indicative

intolerable yet so...ALIVE

i won't scratch it

instead i'll savor it.

i try to remember every itch i've ever had

every sneeze

every step

every breath

of course i can't

it's too easy to take such things for granted.

i wonder how many people before me have had these very same thoughts
how many others have come to appreciate life only a short time before losing it
AND HOW MANY MORE WILL FOLLOW?

oh, well.

they'll be here soon

then the chance will begin

and end.

then it will be

DARK.

-VAS DEFERENS -- PEACE AND SABOTAGE



TROUBLE COMING EVERY DAY

by Raymond Luc Levasseur

"And so beneath the weight lay I
And suffered death, but could not die."

--Edna St. Vincent Millay

SOCIETY REFLECTS ITSELF in the microcosm of prison. From a class based, economically driven racially motivated construct devolves life as a series of Chinese boxes -- a set of boxes decreasing in size so that each box fits inside the next larger one. I am in the smallest box.

I AM IN Administrative Maximum (ADX) prison, the Federal government's latest boondoggle to contain prisoners rebellion and dissent. I am in a "boxcar" cell. Picture a cage where top, bottom, sides and back are concrete walls. The front is sliced by steel bars. Several feet beyond the bars is another wall. In this wall is a solid steel door. The term "boxcar" is derived from this configuration: a small, enclosed box that doesn't move.

I AM CONFINED to the boxcar cell 157 hours of each 168 hour week. Eleven hours of each week I'm aloud into the barren area adjacent to this cell. Each morning begins with the noisy rumble of the steel door opening. A guard steps to the bars and slides food through a small slot. Feeding time. The guard steps back and the door slaps shut with a vengeance

THE PURPOSE OF A BOXCAR CELL is to gouge the prisoners senses by suppressing human sound, putting blinders around our eyes and forbidding touch. Essential human needs are viewed with suspicion. Within the larger context of a control unit prison, the boxcar cell is designed to inflict physical and emotional isolation that wears down a prisoner's will to resist. When this regimen undermines a prisoner's health or distorts his/her personality, it's considered the cost of doing business.

IT SEEMS ENDLESS. Each morning I look at the same gray door and hear the same rumbles followed by long silences. It is endless. Subjected to humiliations designed to buckle our knees we are: bent over, arms clamped behind our backs, pawed, prodded, cell searched, strip searched, commanded, marched distances of 50 feet, silenced, and hooked to a chain running through 1,500,000 prisoners. All this is enforced by a porcine abomination called the Goon Squad whose idea of combat is to jump on handcuffed and caged prisoners while applying boots, truncheons and blasts of chemical agents to faces that are pushed to unforgiving concrete.

I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED in their prison. My sight is diminished, but I maintain my vision. I see their hand in the use of four point restraints to spread eagle prisoners. something inherently abusive regardless of the excuse. I see forced feedings, cell extractions, mind medications and chemical weapons used to incapacitate. I see a steady stream of petty hassles, harrassments, verbal barrages, mindfuck games, disciplinary reports, medical neglect, and the omnipresent threat of violence. Airborne bags of shit and gobs of spit become the response of the caged.

THE MINDS OF SOME prisoners are collapsing in on them. I don't know what internal strife lies within them but it isn't mitigated here. One prisoner subjected to four point restraints (chains, actually) as shock therapy, had been chewing on his own flesh. Why is a prisoner who mutilates himself kept in ADX? Is he supposed to improve his outlook on life while stripped, chained and tormented by a squad of guards and prison functionaries?

SOME PRISONERS RARELY come out of their cells. Others never come out. I don't know why. Meanwhile, psychologists with heads full of psychobabble roam the tiers supposedly sniffing out pockets of mental instability.

I WAS IN TENNESSEE'S Brushy Mountain penitentiary in 1970-71 when it was locked down. The media (finally!) did a shocking expose demonstrating that up to 1/3 of Brushy's prisoners were mentally ill and didn't belong there. Left unanswered was whether they arrived in that condition or whether Brushy drove them over the edge. It never will be answered because Brushy prisoners rebelled in a conflagration that claimed lives on both sides of the bars. The old Brushy Mountain was closed.

ADX WAS DESIGNED the way corporations design schemes to poison the environment while avoiding responsibility for doing so. They cut into sight and sound with ubiquitous walls and boxes. We exercise in something resembling the deep end of a cement lined pool. Every seam and crack is sealed so that not a solitary weed will penetrate this desolation. Smell and taste are reduced to staleness and sameness. Every guard functions as a spy, watching and listening with prying, voyeuristic eyes camera, and microphones. ("Intelligence gathering by the staff is critical")¹⁾ When they're done with us, we become someone else's problem.

TELEVISION DESERVES SPECIAL mention. Unlike other prisons, every ADX cell is equipped with a small black and white TV, compliments of the Bureau of Prisons (BoP) pacification program. Hollywood and Madison Avenue images are churned out through a barrage of talk shows, soaps, cartoons and B movies to give us some vicarious social interaction. Feeling rebellious, lonely, angry, miserable, alienated, unskilled and

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THERE ARE NO JOBS for those in boxcar cells. Like millions of others, we are punished with unemployment. Education is restricted to inadequate videos on the TVs. One such program featured "The Criminal Mid". I was expecting some analysis of US corporate criminals and politicians. Instead, we got a sketch of drug abusers stealing and cavorting in a landscape of dilapidated houses and abandoned factories. A school we had already been through.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES are relegated to TV. Recently, the prison chaplain presented his video analysis of the US's decline caused by homosexuality, AIDS and women's rights. Lifting this blight would "make America great again" -- like in the good old days of land theft and chattel slavery. The chaplain said nothing about the scourge of poverty, racism, unemployment, or killer cops and their connection to the prison industry. The chaplain said nothing about the ADX visiting room where floor to ceiling partitions rub "family values" into our wounds. "Christianity" rules. There is no Imam for Muslim prisoners.

EVERY MORNING, I GO through my own ablution. Every morning there is a layer of chalky dust settled about the cell. It comes through the single air vent. It never stops. Each morning I busy myself with a wet rag mopping up all that is not in my lungs.

THE GOVERNMENT SAYS WE don't have much common cause with humanity because we are "the worst of the worst" -- an incessant BoP incantation which has become an effective soundbite. The government successfully monopolises and manipulates information pertaining to crime and punishment. But was the government to be believed about Viet Nam or the S&L rip off? Was Nixon to be believed on Watergate? Was Reagan to be believed about the mass murder in Central America? Was Clinton to be believed concerning the human ashes in Waco? If they were, maybe you'll buy a Brooklyn Bridge named ADX. The government has a major credibility problem, yet tasz dollars continue to bleed away into the sordid business of the world's largest prison system.

WHO ARE WE? WE ARE part of the chain gang; a human chain of one and a half million prisoners that runs from the "evil and unnatural construction"²⁾ of impoverished communities to the evil, unnatural construction of children's prisons, penitentiaries, control units, and death chambers. With each repressive step, the "troublemakers" AKA "the worst of the worst" are removed, as if WE spawned conditions in Roxbury, North Philly, East LA, and Appalachia.

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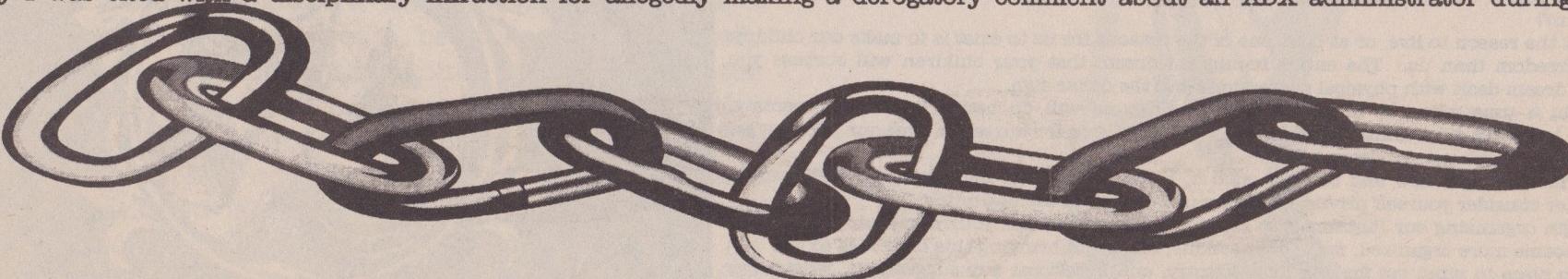
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CHRISTIANITY RULES...

WE ARE MEN OF NO property, predominately black and brown, and increasingly younger, who enter one of the few doors open to us: the penitentiary. We are too uppity, too rebellious, too subversive, and too quick to piss on prison policies. At times we are so outrageous that we destroy government property, and challenge the State's authority to treat us like dogs. We are quick to defend ourselves, our rights, our religions, and our principles. Sure, there are some happy killers and heavy bulk dealers that cashed in on other people's suffering, but they are a small minority. Most of those dealing in crimes against humanity remain on the street. No one in ADX left as many bodies in his wake as Reagan did in Central America. Not even close.

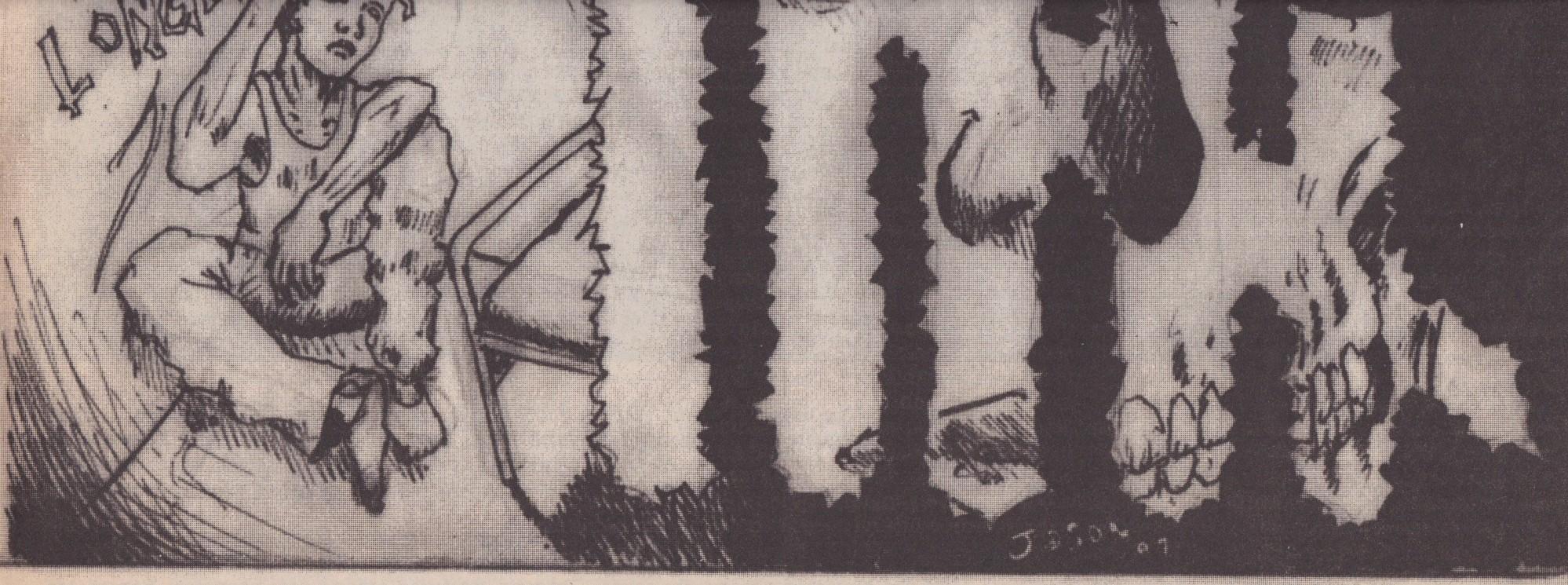
WHO AM I? I AM ONE subjected to the collective punishment within the common ground of ADX. I was sent to prison for political offenses and I was placed in a control unit prison because the State maintains my radical political beliefs and associations warrant extreme measures. Recently I was cited with a disciplinary infraction for allegedly making a derogatory comment about an ADX administrator during a media





interview. The constitutional expression of my views is considered conduct unbecoming within the master/chattel relationship.

"WORST OF THE WORST" is where the illusion clashes with the reality. The illusion -- that the criminalization of poverty and the isolation and degradation of prisoners provides an effective, humane response to social ills. The reality -- that crimes begin at the top with predatory capitalists profiting grotesquely, while the results of their activities mire the rest of us in economic and social rot.



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IN A 1993 COMMEMMORATION of the Marion lockdown, I wrote that ADX (then under construction and slated to replace Marion) "awaits those who continue to refuse and resist." Sure enough, ADX became the destination for those prisoners held responsible for the recent uprisings throughout the federal system. The best were sent to ADX after running gauntlets of gunshots, beatings, teargas, and the destruction of their few personal belongings. A baptism into the ranks of resistance.

OTHER UPRISING PARTICIPANTS were sent to Marion, still locked down since 1983. To the public, the BoP maintained that once ADX became operational, the lockdown would end. They lied. They doubled their control unit capacity by keeping both prisons locked down.

FOR YEARS, PRISONCRATS RAVED about the deterrent effect of Marion. If it works so well, why hasn't it put itself out of business? Marion/ADX didn't deter the October uprisings, the most widespread and destructive in the Federeal prison system's history. They didn't deter USP Atlanta from grabbing headlines with its high level of violence. They have not deterred prisoners transferred to other prisons or released to the streets from picking up new charges. Control unit prisons are not the solution. They are part of the problem.

LAST YEAR, A PRISONER RELEASED from the isolation and brutality of California's notorious control unit at Pelican Bay (see page 7) killed a cop before he got home and unpacked his bag. Apparently, someone forgot to explain the finer points of deterrence to him. The response of the state representative from the district including Pelican Bay was illuminating. He introduced legislation mandating that released Pelican Bay prisoners be transported directly to their destination, so that when the bodies drop it will be in some other baliwick, and not stain the Department of Corrections. Prisoncrats, like politicians, are amazingly adept at shielding themselves from consequences of their policies.

WHERE ARE THE MENTAL CHALLENGES, stimulations, education, recreation and socialization that are the building blocks of sound minds? The answer lies in the ADX "STEP" program -- an insidious operation based on a carrot and stick approach to compliance.

WE ALL BEGIN IN the boxcars. Beyond this initial STEP, prisoners must pass through three other steps for the ultimate award: transfer to a less degrading prison.

EACH STEP BEYOND THE BOXCARS provides greater mental and physical stimulation and less isolation. Each step provides for a bigger and tastier carrot. Be compliant, lucky, or necessary to fill a quota and you will receive more priveleges. Be noncompliant, unlucky, or present any resistance and you will be buried in ADX until you're released, or you find an innovative way to beat them, or die. That's a lot of weight to carry.

ADVANCEMENT IN STEP INVOLVES pseudo debriefings by a review committee, which includes an ADX shyster. The committee is biased

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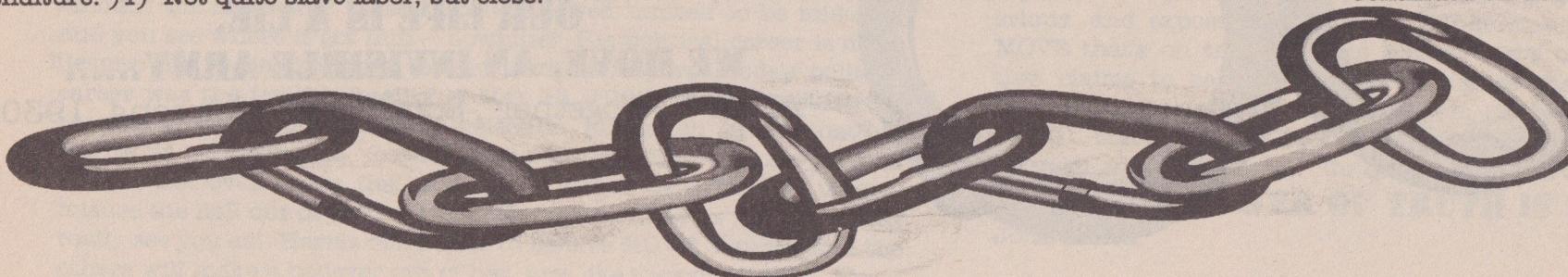
ADVANCEMENT IN STEP INVOLVES pseudo debriefings by a review committee, which includes an ADX shrink. The committee expects at least a token degree of compliance, which can range from keeping one's mouth shut to standard shuck and jive. Were I to tell the committee what I am now putting on paper, I would be rejected. The bottom line is the administration's power and agenda; no different, really, than outside.

HERE, THEY ADVANCE WHO they want, when they want, and for whatever reason they want. They just as arbitrarily reject others. Or ignore their own "guidelines" whenever it suits their political or personal purpose. They toy with prisoners' lives and compile reams of paper to create the fiction trhat the federal prison system, indeed, the country, is a better, safer place because of their efforts.

NOT QUITE SLAVE.....

THE FINAL STEP IS UNICOR - the factory. Prisoners are required to demonstrate their readiness to function in a less restrictive environment by laboring for 26 cents an hour ("...to be treated in such a way as to exploit them to the highest possible extent at the lowest conceivable degree of expenditure.")⁴) Not quite slave labor, but close.

Continued on next page.



This photo
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Incarcer-
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of the
Committee
to End the
Marion
Lockdown.



continued from previous page

THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS STEP/UNICOR its primary management and control mechanism which it manipulates at will. They consider it something of a propaganda coup to have the system's designated recalcitrants filling the slots. I say this, in part, because shortly after UNICOR became operational, the ADX segregation unit filled with incoming prisoners set up a primary component of a program which serves to entrap other prisoners entering ADX has not gone unnoticed. If we cannot counter the administration's strategy of dangling each prisoner from his own rope, they will turn us into our own worst enemies.

LOCKED DOWN PRISONS are no longer unique. They have erupted across the country like malignant sores on a diseased organ. The entire prison gulag vies with gambling as the country's fastest growing industry, with neither one producing anything of social value. Jails and prisons compete with fast food joints for the public appetite. Jails are scattered among churches. Prisons scattered among cow pastures. Barges are converted into jails. Tents are converted into cells. Military bases are converted into prisons. Schools are being looked at next. It all bottoms out in control unit prisons.

LETS NOT KID OURSELVES ABOUT the prevailing attitude among the political and corporate elite and much of the voting public: prisoners are human waste. The more forbidding the penitentiaries, the more like garbage they define us. As downsized laborers, outcasts, and outlaws, there is no room for us at the table. Exterminating us on a mass scale is not presentably acceptable, so plan B is in effect: execute small numbers,



continued from previous page

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SO, OUR BODIES BECOME commodities for someone else's gain. Past recidivist rates documented a failed system. Today's recidivist rates read like the Dow Jones Industrial Average -- the higher the recidivism, the more various opportunists stand to gain.

THE TRAFFICKERS IN BODIES INSURE a steady supply by slashing at fundamental programs serving our poorest families. They demand more police, more children's prisons and more youth incarceration. More bodies, younger bodies, with increased shelf life due to mandatory sentences. They legislate harsher conditions that make us leaner, meaner, and infinitely more recyclable.

CROWDING THE WASTE ARE PARASITES and scavengers that descend on misery like gulls at a landfill: prison guards, administrators, consultants, contractors, construction companies, maintenance personnel, concessionaires, realtors, social workers, paper shufflers, etc. ad nauseam. All of them opt for the government's blue light sale rather than find respectable employment.

ADX GUARDS SAY THEY are just doing their job, which they will gladly do for an annual entry level salary of \$32,000; \$50,000 with overtime. A nice benefits package and a bully pulpit to boot. Some do it with benign neglect, while others do it with perverse cruelty. In a Faustian contract with the government, they work the cages and in return get to send their kids to college and take Caribbean vacations.

GUARDS, LIKE ALL ENTERPRISING citizens, can buy a piece of the action through tax exempt bonds that underwrite state prison construction. They can do it with the detached air of the post modern fascist because such purchases do not hold them liable for anything that happens within the prison. No beating, injury, medical neglect or death will cut into their profit. In the burgeoning private prison industry stock purchases are available through investment companies. Why not? General Motors invested in Nazi Germany.

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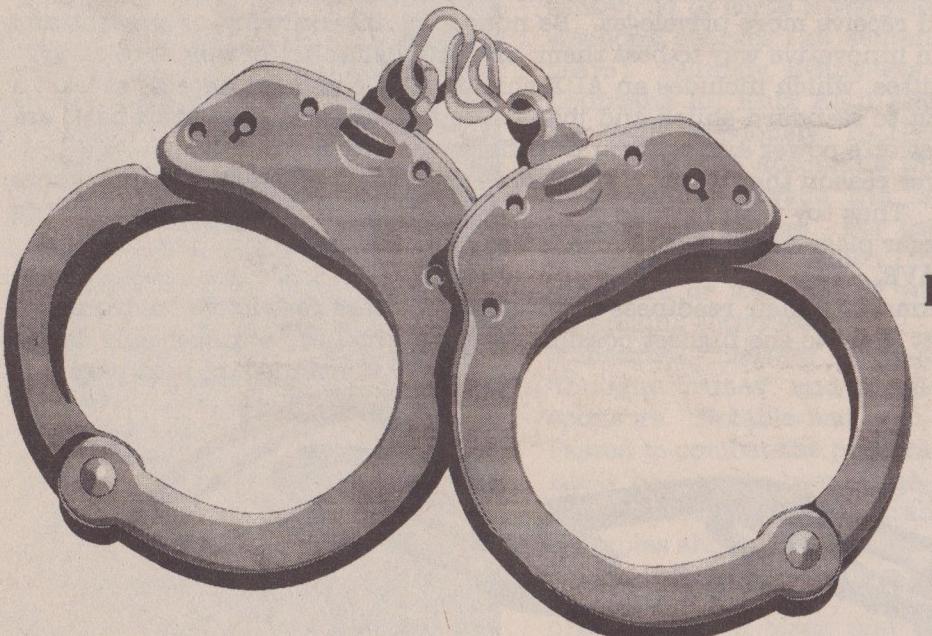
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**"WE WERE SLAVES IN PHARAOH'S LAND
YOU AND HE AND I,
AND WE WERE SERFS TO FEUDAL HANDS
NOW THAT TIME'S GONE BY.
PRENTICES IN CITIES, PRISONERS FOR DEBT,
HUNTED VAGRANTS, PARISH POOR,
OUR LIFE IS A LIE.
WE MOVE, AN INVISIBLE ARMY....."**

"All Of Us Together", Southern Labor song, 1930s

THERE'S A PARALLEL with the Viet Nam War: the government takes your money and children for war while deceiving you into acquiescence. In return we get a divided society, more violence and an abandonment of the War on Poverty. And like those years, it appears the present "silent majority" isn't ready for a serious policy review until the cycle of violence drives its stake deeper into middle Amerika's heart and their pockets have been more thoroughly picked.

THE RULING CLASS MAKES the laws, and there's no shortage of sycophants to wield them like a club. Guards and administrators operate under color of prison law which ranges from court granted "qualified immunity" to stark terror and murder. The United States Constitution's 13th Amendment allows convict labor to be harnessed like slave labor. A Supreme Court mandate forbids prisoners from forming unions. Circulating a petition is a punishable offense. Interwoven through the letter of the law is 500 years of white supremacy. Twenty-five lashes. Twenty-five year sentence.

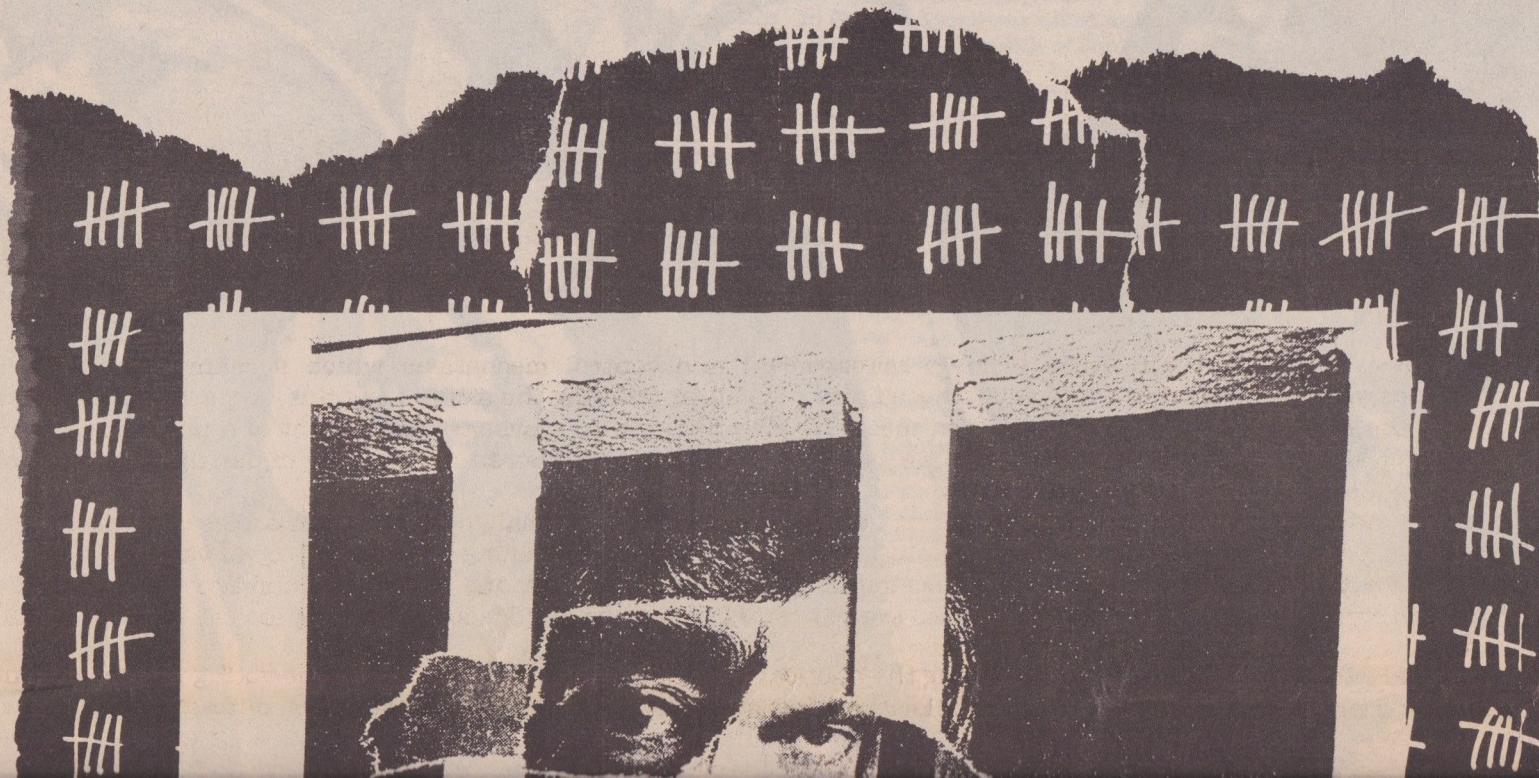
PENITENTIARIES TURN OUT MORE violent, crime prone, big attitude men, women and children who have been told in no uncertain terms that their individual freedom and dignity are worth nothing, and that their futures are nil. The police cannot protect communities from the volatile rage this brings to bear. All the police do is step in after the fact at clean up some of the mess. The Better Business Bureau accepts no complaints about the criminal justice system's grand fraud and toxic emissions

MILLIONS MORE LIVES IN prison will not improve life in the street. It takes an investment in humanity that provides living wage jobs and other development opportunities to improve the quality of our lives and communities. Amerika doesn't lack the resources. It lacks the will.

THE ATTICA REBELLION AND massacre demonstrated that the State can and will kill us, and that killing us is the ultimate sanction for militant resistance. Twenty-five years of subsequent litigation put the court's approval on the massacre. The government ALWAYS approves its own slaughter. But the capacity to live in submission and have the lifeblood sucked out of us from one decade into the next has its limits. When we are strong, organized and ready, we will transcend these limits. As only human beings can.

RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR

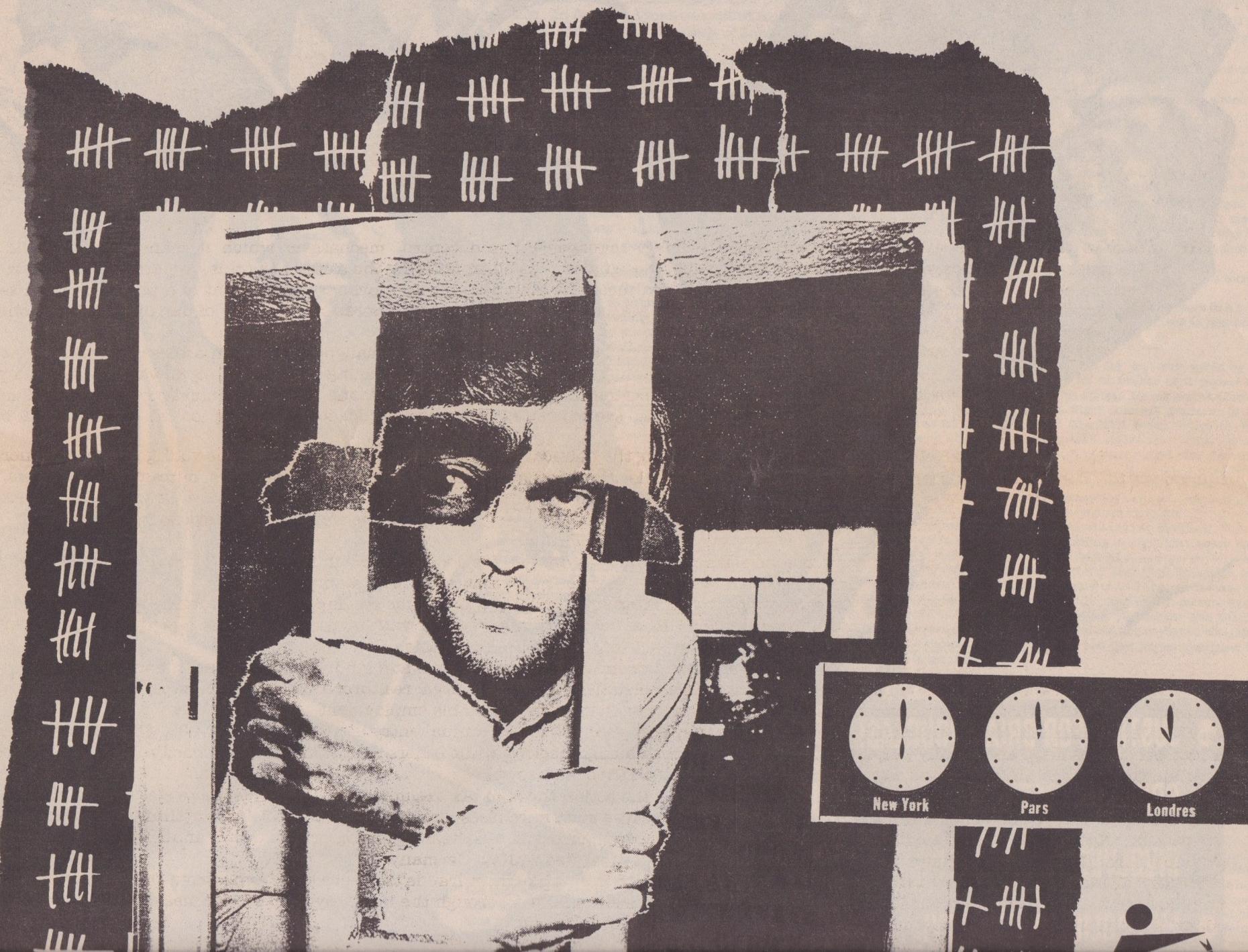
February 1996

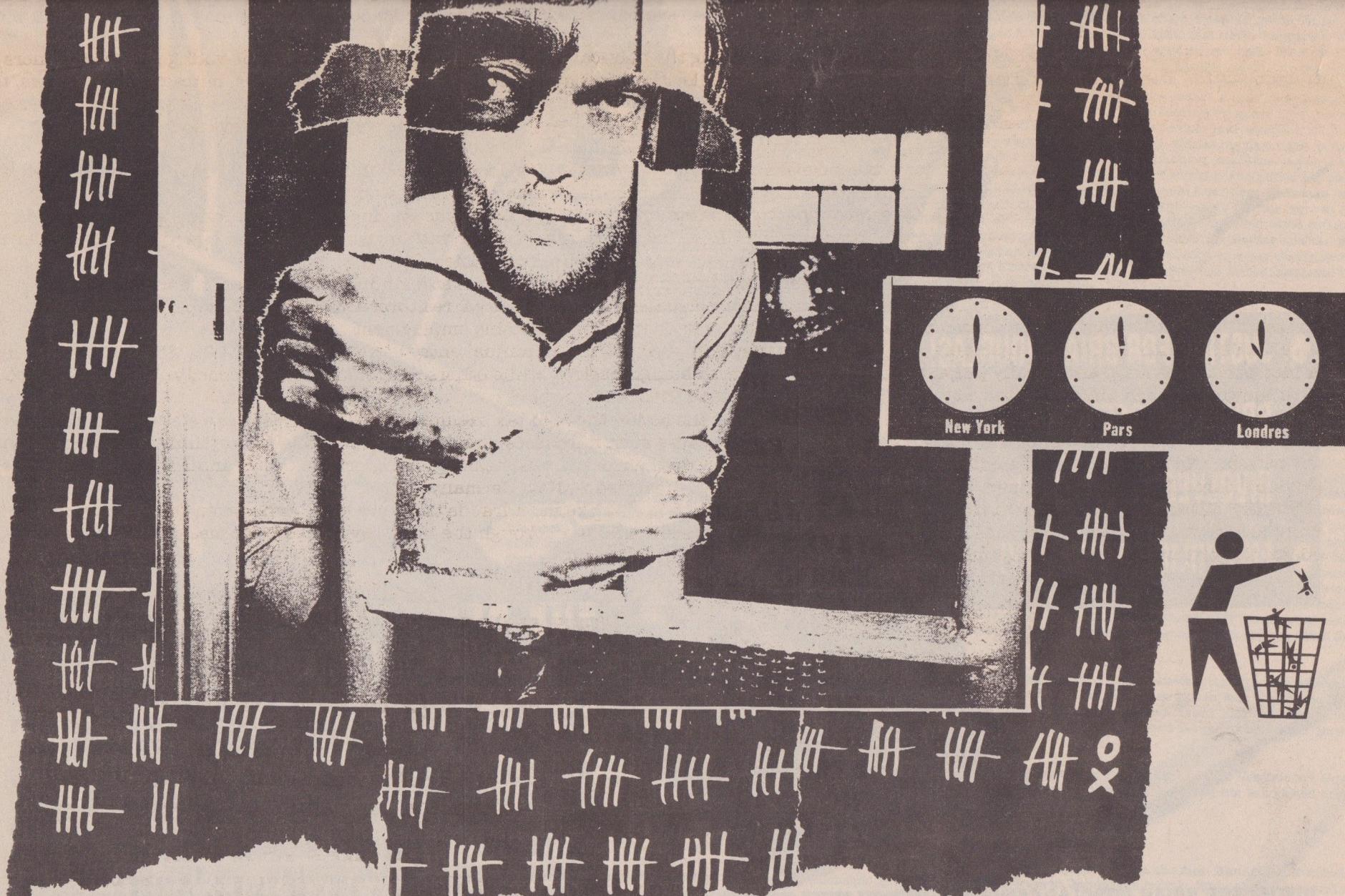


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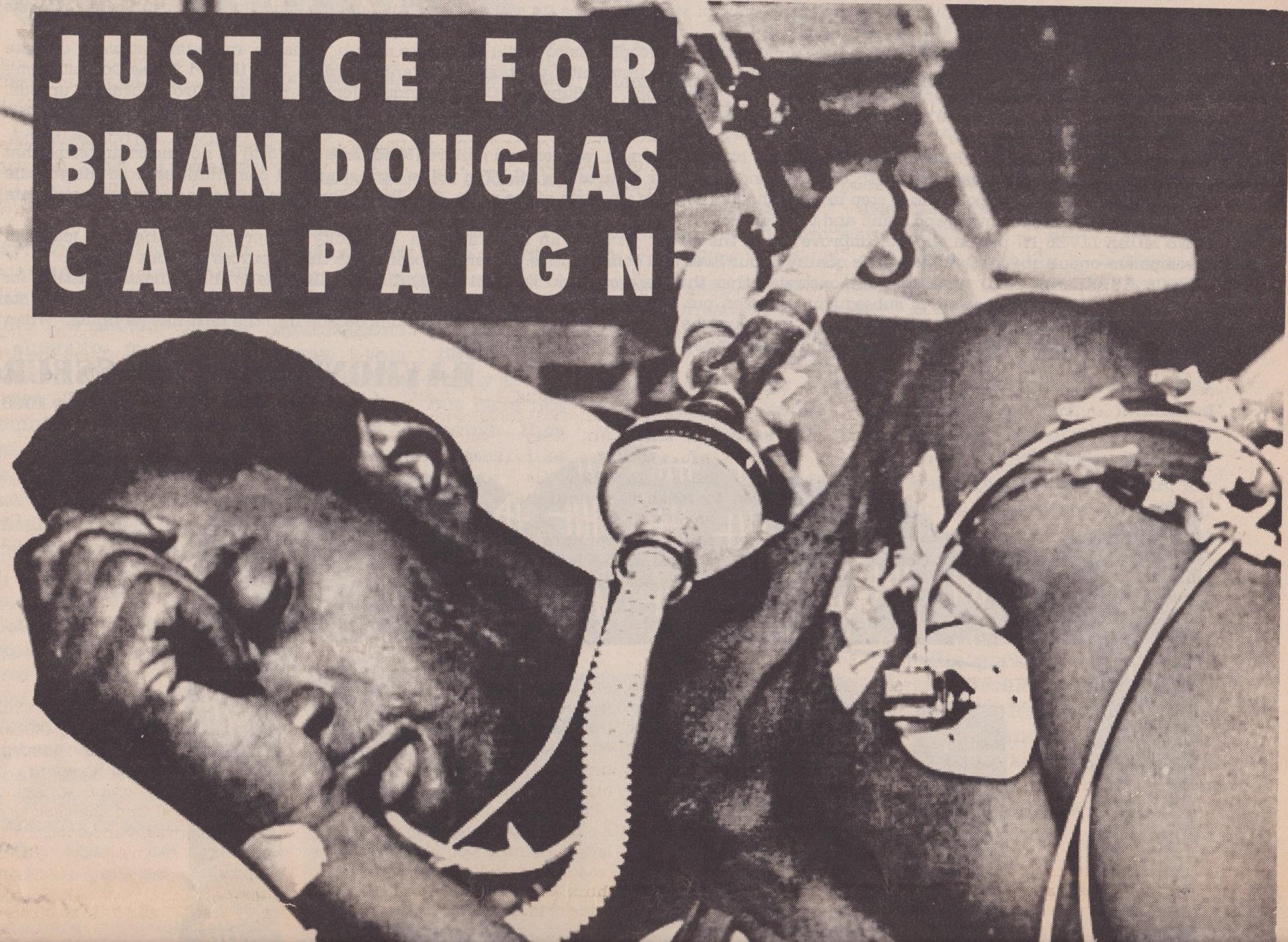


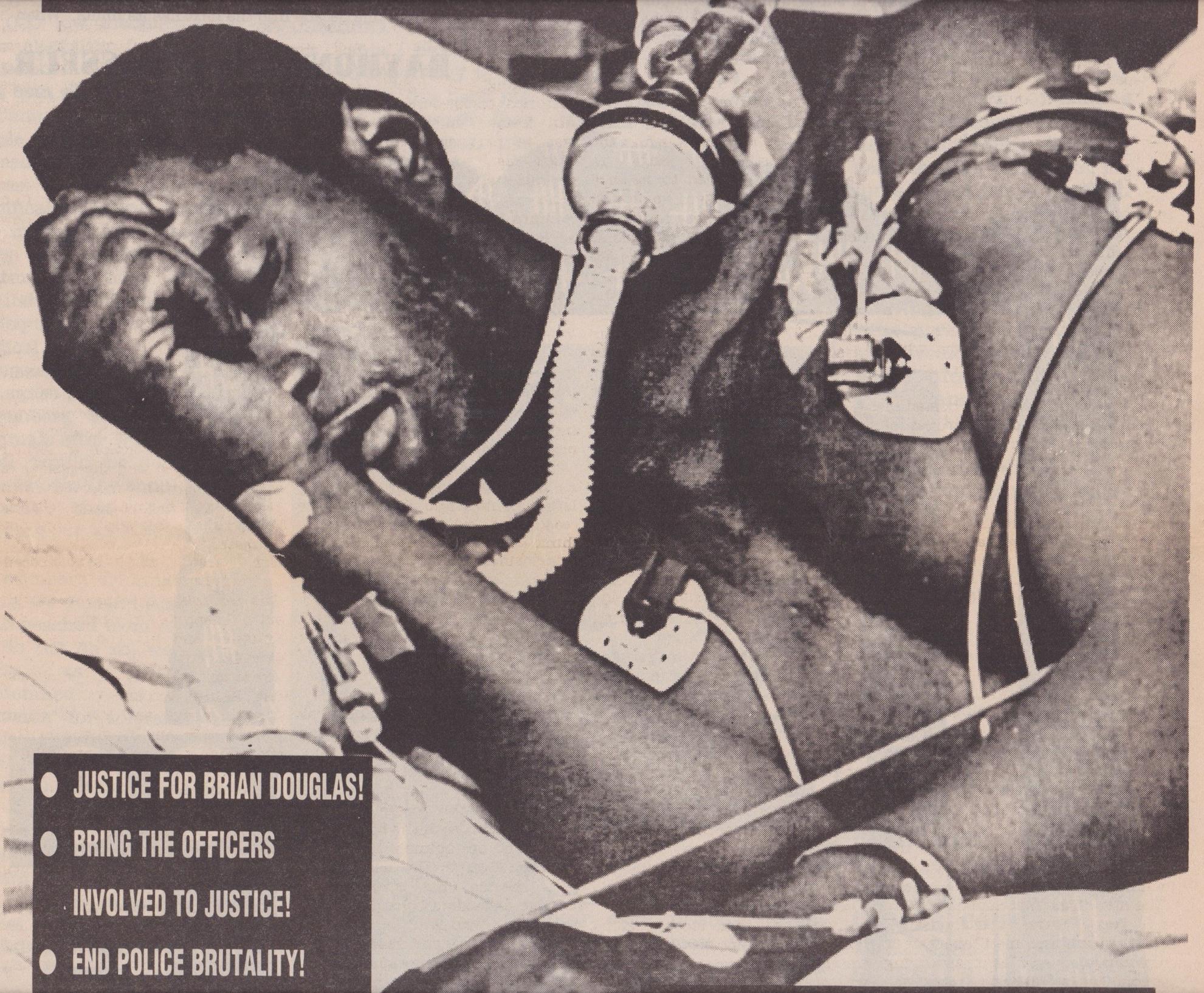
THANKS TO ERIC (KOCHISE) FOR ARTWORK

Footnotes

- 1) John Vanyur, Associate Warden, ADX, quoted in "Corrections Today", July 1995.
- 2) Jonathan Kozol, "Amazing Grace", 1995.
- 3) "The Fire Inside", Levasseur, September 1993.
- 4) Fritz Saukel (Head of Nazi forced labor program), 1942.

JUSTICE FOR BRIAN DOUGLAS CAMPAIGN





- JUSTICE FOR BRIAN DOUGLAS!
- BRING THE OFFICERS
- INVOLVED TO JUSTICE!
- END POLICE BRUTALITY!

- 
- JUSTICE FOR BRIAN DOUGLAS!
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THE RESULT OF POLICE ACTION

JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE MORNING OF 3rd MAY 1995, BRIAN AND HIS FRIEND, STAFFORD SOLOMON, WERE APPROACHED BY POLICE OFFICERS IN ST. LUKE'S AVENUE IN CLAPHAM, SOUTH LONDON. SOON AFTER, WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION, BRIAN SUSTAINED SEVERE BLOWS, WHICH WERE ADMINISTERED FROM BEHIND, ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD. HE WAS THEN TAKEN TO KENNINGTON POLICE STATION, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR 15 HOURS WITHOUT MEDICAL ATTENTION. HE DIED A WEEK LATER IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 8th MAY. STAFFORD SUSTAINED A BROKEN ARM.

JUSTICE FOR BRIAN DOUGLAS CAMPAIGN, 77A ATLANTIC ROAD,
LONDON SW9 8PU. TEL: 0171-733 7790 and 0171 978 9282 (FAX).
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY LAMBETH UNISON A BRANCH
NOT TO BE FLY POSTED

TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEFT:

courtesy of the
Antirepressionsburo

On June 13, 1995, the police searched more than 50 houses, collectives and projects of the radical left movement in several cities of FRG (Federal Republic of Germany). According to the Bundesanwaltschaft (BAW - Office of the Federal Attorney), the highest German prosecution, the investigations and inquiries were enacted against the Antiimperialistischen Zellen (Antiimperialist Cells), the newspaper "Radikal", and the group K.O.M.I.T.E.E. (Committee). The BAW normally takes control from city and state offices of the District Attorney over cases which are seen to be of a special interest - particularly, in cases of "threatened" Internal Security and when felony offenses are heard before the court. Noticeably enough, proceedings in accordance with *129/129a, a political paragraph criminalizing, respectively, membership in a "criminal organization", are filed against critical Leftist groups, while with fatal neo-fascist attacks this is rarely the case.

Several people have been busted in the course of the house searches, of which four remain in custody awaiting trial, charged with *129/129a.

Four more people in connection with this are on the run. We send them lots of love and power. *129/129a has been used for decades to criminalize Leftist groups, newspapers, bookstores,

manner that occupants logically defended themselves, thinking they were being attacked by Nazis. One occupant even called the police for help. Not until Blendschokgranaten (stun grenades) were used did people recognize that they were dealing with the police.

In Berlin, three SEK cops, their faces hidden by ski masks, remained with drawn guns before the beds of three kids. They expected to uncover a suspect there.

A few weeks later, Ulf Bunermann (Bremen), was sentenced to five months coercive detention after being summoned to appear as a witness before the head investigating judge in Karlsruhe he refused to make a statement. Since then, he as well as four other prisoners have been held in solitary confinement. This means they have no contact of any kind to their fellow prisoners, must remain 23 of the 24 hours each day in their cells, have one hour exercise in the prison yard (alone), with visits from friends and lawyers only being allowed through a bullet proof glass divider.

A short description of the groups under investigation follows

RADIKAL

The "Radikal", founded in 1976 in Berlin, is a nationwide irregularly published newspaper. It has become an important means of communication for the Autonome and radical left, and was so especially in the early 80s

are published, as well as reports on political work and activities throughout Germany, such as anti-fascists distributing leaflets on house- and tenant- struggles, to practical anti-racist work with refugees. There are articles on international resistance, such as in Chiapas (Mexico) or Kurdistan, as well as a series titled "Against the Forgetting" on the history of resistance, to be used by the radical left of today as a reference in the struggle against oppression-mechanisms, such as patriarchy, fascism, and upbringing, in light of their historical background.

In former times, the "Radikal" was in part criminalized under *129 as supporting terrorist organizations, because statements from particular strains of the militant left, namely groups such as RAF (Rote Armee Fraktion - Red Army Faction), Rote Zora (Red Zora - wimmins guerilla), and Revolutionäre Zellen (Revolutionary Cells), as well as others, were published. A new quality of today's criminalization is that now the entire contents of the "Radikal", as well as the alleged editorial staff, are declared an independent criminal organization.

The consequences of this are that simply writing about or publishing leftist politics and resistance are reason for indictment. (I don't think this is true; the "Radikal" is being criminalized because of their propaganda in favor of militant politics, the combination of leftist

misanthropical regimes to secure power interests is constantly being pushed. A present example can be found in the supply of military arms to the fascist Turkish government. Through this military aid, thousands of Kurdish villages are being destroyed; Kurdish civilians being driven out and murdered.

Characteristic is it, as well, that almost no common resistance from the radical left, alternative, Christian, or other liberal leftist groups has existed against the first military action taken by Germany since they committed their crimes against humanity in the Second World War.

So far, the left hasn't succeeded in digesting and working through the social and political post-reunification changes to find its own answers to the new situation. The swing to the right in the German society hardly stopped with the ecological and Christian oriented left wing public.

Groups and parties such as the Greens, who several years ago were elected into Parliament because of their historically justified position on pacifism, belong today to the most vehement advocates and supporters of German military action in former Yugoslavia, and find themselves of a like mind with conservatives in regard to hermetically sealing European borders against refugees.

-For free and uncensored communication!

The terrorists are the ones who

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The aim of the instrument of state is two part: intimidation, investigation, and instilling fear in individuals, as well as disappearing persons of a different mind for years behind prison walls. Werner Konnerth (Berlin-Kreuzberg),

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Those who take part in "radikal" regard it as a medium in which the contents of the radical left and militant politics can be discussed uncensored.

As a result of governmental attacks on the structure and distribution system, of "Radikal" in the early 80s, the newspaper has since 1984 been published clandestinely. This necessity increased as the government in 1986 tried, with the help of *129a, to criminalize booksellers as well as other stores selling "Radikal". Mass protest came from the liberal public, unfortunately with little success. The makers of "Radikal" regard themselves as part of the movement, seeing

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It's not too hard to imagine what this could mean for other left wing medias - elimination of any remaining uncensored forms of counter-media. Long ago the freedom of the press in this country, faced with the bourgeoisie's monopoly on opinion and their concentration in the hands of a few, specific, big corporations, became a freedom belong to those in power. Who is to be surprised as conservatives and reactionaries, hand in hand with right-wingers and neo-fascists, win more and more influence in the media press world. It is all that more

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-Lots of power and love to all of you on the run by virtue of the struggle for a more just world!!!!

-Long live international solidarity!

-The struggle goes on -- venceremos!

We don't know yet when the trials against the accused are to begin, but as other trials have shown, it's important to create and call on the international public as well in order to create the pressure needed so that the charges and constructions of the German courts fail.

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The aim of the instrument of state is two part: intimidation, investigation, and instilling fear in individuals, as well as disappearing persons of a different mind for years behind prison walls. Werner Konnerth (Berlin-Kreuzberg), Rainer Paddenberg (Munster), Andreas Ehresmann (Rendsberg), and Ralf Milbrandt (Neumunster) are accused of having worked on the clandestinely published newspaper "Radikal".

In house searches lasting nearly eight hours, the cops confiscated a mountain of materials, including such things as a computer together with disks, private notes, letters, photographs, videos, and phone books.

The SEKs (Sondereinsatzkommandos - Special Police Units) in part advanced extremely brutal. SEKs stormed one house in Koln in such a

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Because uncensored documentation on actions from military groups and the discussion on militant politics in general can be found in almost no legal medium in Germany, "Radikal" is of great importance here.

Instructions for building such things as timed incendiary devices

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This blow against the left is a blow against us all. And, as Kanther (Minister for Internal Affairs/Christian Democratic Union - the leading party in Germany) announced on television the day of the house searches, it serves to deter and intimidate those unwilling to put up with the present ruling conditions. This all comes at a time when Germany's rulers cast more and more aside their sheep's clothing, showing Germany's days of military reservedness are definitely over. Cooperation with

regard to hermetically sealing European borders against refugees.

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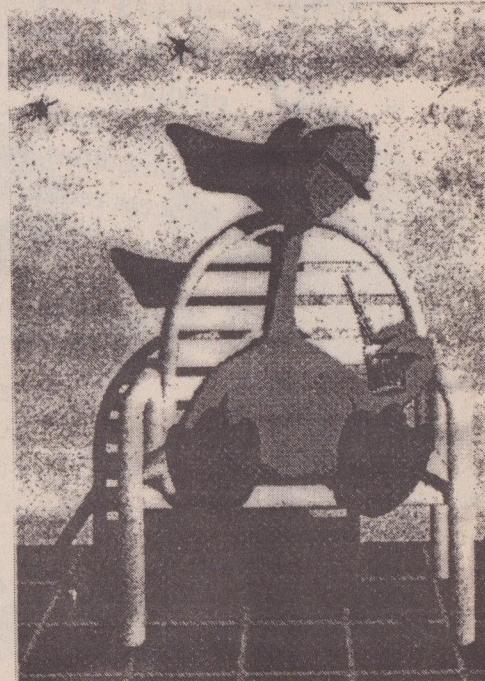
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People

by Andy Wright

Mad people, excited
people, punk people,
Depressed people,
suppressed people,
like-to-shoot-junk
people,
Talk people, gawk people,
hate people,
Feet people, hands people,
debate people,

People who drive too fast.
People who drive too slow.

People people, anti-social
people, cocky people,
Liberal people,
conservative people,
jocky people,
Middle-of-the-road people,
Christian Coalition
people, trained people.
Militia people, apathetic
people, tamed people.

People who say yes.
People who say no.

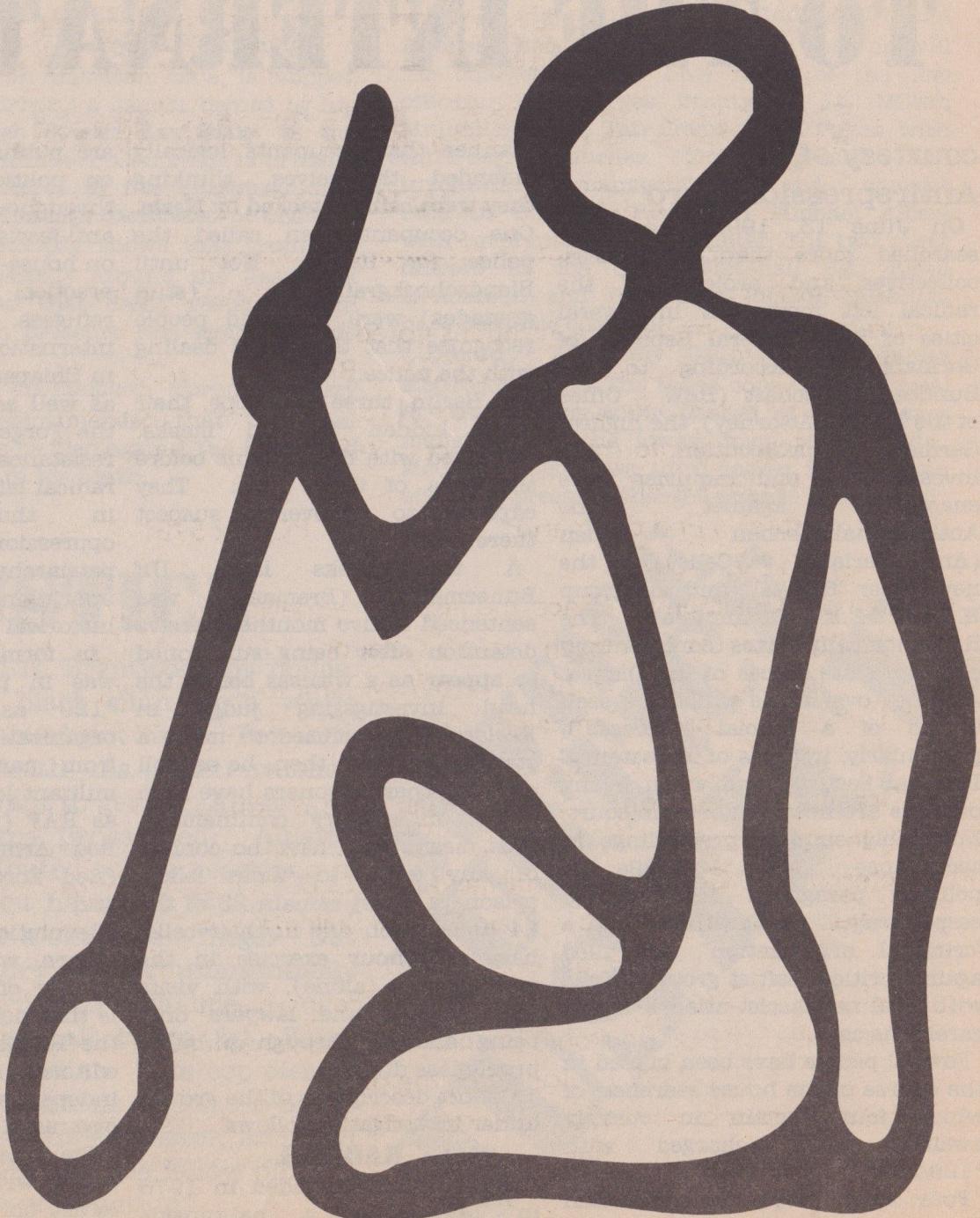
White people, black
people, yellow people,
Red people, purple people,
mellow people,
Happy people, sad people,

green people,
Clean people, smelly
people, mean people.

There are people who
are short,
And there are people
who are vertically
challenged.

P.C. people, un-P.C.
people, preppy
people,
In need of glasses
people, people who
can't see a damn
thing past their nose
people, peppy people,
Perturbed people,
outright jerk people,
bitter people,
Strait people, gay people,
loiter people.

There are people who
are FAT,
And there are people
who could loose a
few pounds.
"There are plenty of
reasons to hate people on
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STOP AND THINK. "EQUALITY"

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The Editors of Rotten Propaganda Newspaper would like for you to read the below quotes and take a minute to think about your own views on the concept of equality. If you would like to share them, please write a brief essay (no more than 500 words) and send it to Rotten Propaganda c/o Equality Essay, POBox 42325, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. We hope to receive enough to print them in the next issue of the paper.

"In America everybody is of opinion that he has no social superiors, since all men are equal, but he does not admit that he has no social inferiors" -- Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

"Equality is
the public
recognition,
effectively
expressed

"Just as modern mass
production requires the

"All this talk about equality. The only thing
people really have in common is that they
are all going to die." -- Bob Dylan (b. 1941)

"We were equals once when we lay new-born babes
on our nurse's knees. We will be equal again when
they tie up our jaws for the last sleep." -- Olive
Schreiner (1855-1920)

"Between persons of equal income
there is no social distinction except
the distinction of merit
nothing; character
capacity."

"When a bachelor

"The trauma of the Sixties
persuaded me that my
generation's egalitarianism
was a sentimental error... I
now see the hierarchical as
both beautiful and
necessary. Efficiency
liberates; egalitarianism
tangles, delays, blocks,
deadens." -- Camille

mellow people,
Happy people, sad people,

a personal level - there is
no reason to generalize."

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Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

"Equality is the public recognition, effectively expressed in institutions and manners, of the principle that an equal degree of attention is due to the needs of all human beings." -- Simone Weil (1909-1943)

"Just as modern mass production requires the standardization of commodities, so the social process requires standardization of man, and this standardization is called equality." -- Erich Fromm (1900-1980)

"...and not poor persons who had never had a chance. That is why idiots are always in favor of inequality of income (their only chance of eminence), and the really great in favor of equality." -- George Bernard Shaw

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"The trauma of the Sixties persuaded me that my generation's egalitarianism was a sentimental error... I now see the hierarchical as both beautiful and necessary. Efficiency liberates; egalitarianism tangles, delays, blocks, deadens." -- Camille

"When a bachelor of philosophy from the Antilles refuses to apply for certification as a teacher on the grounds of his color I say that philosophy has never saved anyone. When someone else strives and strains to prove to me that black men are as intelligent as white men I say that intelligence has never saved anyone: and that is true, for, if philosophy and intelligence are invoked to proclaim the equality of men, they have also been employed to justify the extermination of men." -- Frantz Fanon (1925-1961)

ROTTEN PROPAGANDA

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Andreas Ehresmann (prison Lubeck)

Ralf Milbrandt (prison Neumunster)

Ulf Bundermann (prison Heimsheim)

Ermittlungsrichter (the investigating judge am BGH, the German Federal Supreme Court)

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To contact any of the writers or artists in this issue, please send a letter to Rotten Propaganda's
POBox (above) and address the envelope in care of (c/o) the writer(s) or artist(s) you wish to
contact. All letters will be responded to!

UPDATES

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2.) Ramona Africa, of the MOVE organization, sued the city of Philadelphia and won lots of money for the deaths of the babies, women, and men killed (see page 6).

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3.) The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has refused to hear Mumia's case (see page 6).

4.) The McLibel verdict should be decided very soon (see pages 11 and 12 - centerfold). We will keep you up to date in the next issue.

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